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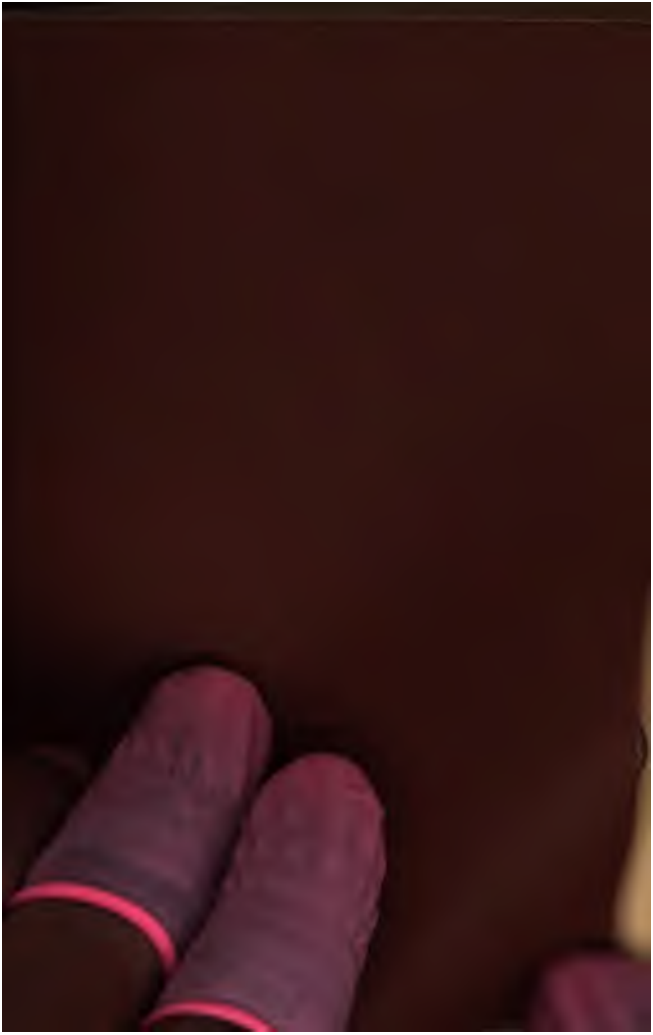

THE

DAILY WALK WITH JESUS

IN THE

PROMISED LAND.

BY THE

REV. DAVID MARTIN,

OXFORD.

"For all the promises of God in Him are Yea, and in Him, Amen, to the glory of God by us."

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PREFACE.

I KNOW and am fully persuaded, that there is more in the Lord Jesus Christ than there is in the whole creation. There is more love in His heart for us than hatred in Satan's against us; more power in Him to bless than in the whole universe to curse; and more willingness in Him to give than there is in us to receive. He is to us the Father's Treasury, filled with all manner of good for poor, needy sinners, for weak and timid believers, for despairing penitents, for tried and tempted Christians, for the hungry and the thirsty; full of grace and truth, far exceeding above all we can ask or think.

Of all the great, glorious, and gracious promises, He is the liberal Dispenser, as He is their sum and substance and end; for all are through Him, and in Him, and for Him, for ever.

If so, it must follow, that of all religious habits there is not one of greater pleasure, of greater power, and of greater profitableness, than that of

daily walking with Jesus amidst these marvellous manifestations of boundless mercy.

Who can tell what multitudes, now in want and misery, might be relieved, from how many evils we might be delivered, what showers of blessings might be poured out on families, on Churches, and on nations, were these precious promises pleaded in faith and earnestness and power? Perhaps there is no class of persons more wanted in the present day than powerful pleaders with God, who, with enlightened minds, with warm and loving hearts, full of the Holy Ghost and of faith, would bring down the mightiest energies and influences on the seed sown, making every effort successful in bringing on the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is by prayer that the Almighty permits Himself to be overcome by weakness; the Holy One by guiltiness; the All-sufficient by emptiness; and the key to all the treasures of grace is given to the earnest seeker, however poor, ignorant, or wretched.

This is to live in the promised land—that land which patriarchs and prophets saw in the distance, which gladdened the heart of Abraham when he saw the day of Christ and rejoiced—the land which appeared in vision to Isaiah, and which he described as the way of holiness, the highway in which wayfaring men, though fools, should not err, and where the ransomed of the Lord should obtain

everlasting joy and gladness. It is not far off; it is nigh thee; there is no need to say, Who shall ascend into heaven? or, Who shall descend into the deep? for we are the children of the promises—they have been fulfilled in the coming of Christ, are being fulfilled in the dispensation of the Spirit, and it is for us to realise them in all their fulness and power.

It is truly a goodly land, flowing with milk and with honey, where the Sun of Righteousness shines most brilliantly by day, and where the nights are illuminated by innumerable stars. Here the atmosphere is the breath of infinite love, mild, salubrious, and bracing; the very leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations; and the happy inhabitants who live up to their privileges, freed from anxiety and care in the presence and favour of Him who careth for them, ripening for glory, daily advance to the rest which remaineth for the people of God.

It is with the hope that this book may tend to foster the habit of living on the promises, to leaven the mind with them, to lead to such earnest and persevering pleading as to secure their fulfilment, that it is sent forth into this world of want and woe. In all this Jesus is the grand encouragement; and we shall believe, realise, and plead them as we are enabled to see Him shining in them. "Remember thy sins," writes an old divine, "and

Christ's pardonings; thy deserts, Christ's merits; thy weakness, Christ's strength; thy pride, Christ's humility; thy many infirmities, Christ's restorings; thy guilt, Christ's new application of His blood; thy failings, Christ's assistance; thy wants, Christ's fulness; thy temptations, Christ's tenderness; thy vileness, Christ's righteousness; for in him shall all the seed of Israel be justified and shall glory."

Encouraged by the manifold proofs of the usefulness of his former work, "The All-in-all for Every Day," the Author commits this to Him who can make it an abundant blessing, and raise from it a revenue of glory to His most gracious name for ever and for ever.

THE

DAILY WALK WITH JESUS.

January 1.

"The love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."—*Rom.* viii. 39.

We are curious to see the source of those rivers which enrich the land, fertilise and make it fruitful; much more momentous is it and interesting to discover the source of these exceeding great and precious promises, the infinite fountain whence they flow. The Apostle here unfolds it, and exults in it—"the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." This is the eternal spring—Jesus, the first and fairest object of the Father's love; next, all who are Christ's, the meanest and the mightiest, all loved infinitely, everlastingly, in Christ, with Christ, and for His sake. He, the Beloved Head, receives all fulness, and pours it abundantly on all His members.

January 2.

"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."—*Gal.* iii. 29.

ALL the exceeding great and precious promises are the property of each member of this glorious family. All are one in Christ Jesus, and this oneness involves this consequence,—that the promises made to our first parents are for us—those made to the patriarchs, for us—those made to prophets and apostles, those made to Jesus also, all ours. Count them up as among your greatest riches; study them diligently; make them your mental property; and plead them daily, until the blessings are actually yours. All are yours, whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas; patriarchs, prophets, all are yours, because ye are Christ's.

January 3.

"He abideth faithful; He cannot deny Himself."—2 *Tim.* ii. 13.

HE who binds himself by a promise becomes a debtor to the person to whom he makes the promise. The great God has, in wondrous love and compassion, by promising, placed Himself in the position of a debtor, a debtor to every believer

in Christ, who is entitled to plead, and plead importunately, for every blessing promised. He is faithful, cannot deny Himself, cannot dishonour His own bills, but will readily pay all He has engaged to do. "Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

January 4.

"But there shall not a hair of your head perish."—*Luke* xxi. 18.

PERHAPS, dear reader, you are this day forecasting the future; speculating as to what may happen to you during this year, and foreboding manifold evils. Be assured from the lips of your loving Lord that you have no need to apprehend. You are safe in Him. Could you turn over the pages of the Lamb's Book, read carefully your appointed lot, you would not find in all God's decrees one against you, if a believer in Jesus. There are many against our sins, but not one against our eternal good. "And I saw another angel having the seal of the living God; and he cried with a loud voice, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."

January 5.

"But they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."—*Psalm* xxxiv. 10.

How much we may need this year is known only to the all-wise God. What is good for us is in many things known only to Him; but, be it much or little, it is included in this royal promise. Good of all kinds—good for body and for mind, for time and for eternity; all spiritual blessings, and all temporal blessings. Be assured that what is withheld would not be good for us—the withholding is oftentimes the greatest good. All good is in Jesus, all good has been purchased by Jesus, all has been deserved for us by Jesus, and He is waiting and willing to bestow it on those who seek Him.

January 6.

"And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."—*Gen.* xxviii. 15.

If all things are ours, if the promises made to one member of the family are the property of all, then this one is for every believer to the end of

time. Leaving the literal relating to Jacob only, we seize the spiritual, and say boldly to every dear Christian friend, Jesus will be with you all through this year. Being a member of His body, He being your living Head, He will guide and guard, He will sustain and sanctify, complete that good work He hath begun, and receive you to Himself in glory.

January 7.

"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."—*Exod.* xxxiii. 14.

JESUS is God's presence: He is God manifest in the flesh; Immanuel, God with us. There is vastly more of God in Jesus than in all creation beside. This promise, timid disciple, is more than having a body-guard of the finest troops in the world—more than the strength of legions of angels; for Jesus is more than all—He made them all. Learn to look into Jesus until you can see clearly all that you can possibly need actually in Him, and ready for your service at your earnest request. The rest of God is confidence in Jesus. What a loving God to provide such a Saviour! "We which have believed do enter into rest."

January 8.

"The Lord will go before you."—*Isaiah* lii. 12.

LOOK before you, Christian—look by faith before you. Who is He that goeth in front of you, between you and your enemies? Do you thus believe in the Lord Jesus Christ—that He is as a pioneer to clear the way, to hew a path through the most entangled forest, to chase away the enemies of your soul, and open up the road to glory? Oh, if we could but see Jesus as He really is, with His heart full of love, His hand of blessings, and His arm of power, how firmly and fearlessly should we move along this life to a better! Why should we not do as David did?—"I foresaw the Lord always before my face; for He is on my right hand, that I should not be moved."

January 9.

"The meek will He teach His way."—*Psalm* xxv. 9.

OUR dear Redeemer knows every inch of ground along which we have to travel through this world to a better. In Him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. In Him I can see the path to glory; all that can happen to me in the way to

heaven is included in His infinite purpose, His all-wise plan, and His almighty power. He can see clearly every hill, every valley, every brook, every river, the rough places and the smooth, the tempest and the calm, the dangers and the difficulties—all, all are known to Him; and therefore He can and will teach me His way. "Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory."

January 10.

"For mine angel shall go before thee."—*Exod.* xxiii. 23.

Not only does Jesus know the way we walk in, but He is the Captain of our salvation, bringing many sons unto glory, at the head of His troops, to defend, to comfort, and to save. Lord, grant us the faith that will see Thee, the invisible but most certain and glorious guide; see in Thee all that we can possibly need every moment; see Thee when tempted to sin, when cast down by trials, when contending for the mastery with opposing powers, that we may prevail.

Leader of faithful souls, and Guide
Of all who travel to the sky,
Come, and with us, even us, abide,
Who would on Thee alone rely.

January 11.

"By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased and inherit the land."—*Exod.* xxiii. 30.

THE conquest of Canaan pictures the spiritual life in each believer in Christ. Little by little is ignorance removed and illumination imparted to the soul; little by little does faith get the mastery over unbelief, love over selfishness, purity over impurity, obedience over disobedience, the new man over the old. Be patient, brethren; be prayerful, be persevering, and every one of these horrid enemies shall be cast out, never to return. Oh, come the welcome day when our soul shall be all for Christ—every principle, every power united in Him!

January 12.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass."—*Psalm* xxxvii. 5.

YOU are thinking that your way is most difficult; you are perhaps at your wit's end, and ready to despair. But have you pondered the power of the Promiser? Have you considered that what is to you a crushing mountain, is nothing to the Omni-

potent Friend you lean on? Can it be difficult for Him who made the sea to fill a tiny vessel? who created the sun to illumine a cottage? who divided the waters, and made a path through the sea; who wrestled with infinite wrath, and overcame on Calvary? Do think of what Jesus has done for you, in you, and by you, and rest quietly in Him. "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is there anything too hard for Me?"

January 13.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass."—*Psalm* xxxvii. 5.

THIS supposes, surely, that our way is in harmony with God's will. No one can expect Him to promise success to any scheme that is contrary to His own perfect plan. Having ascertained this, having used all means; calmly, confidently, courageously leave it in the hands of Jesus; and without any anxiety of yours, without any fretful care, your end shall be accomplished. It is He who has all power in heaven and earth, who can never be at a loss for means, who makes this promise. Ah! what wear and tear of mind, what vexation of spirit, would this save, did we but obey this precept, and rely on this promise!

January 14.

"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"—*Rom.* viii. 32.

THIS implies a promise that He will. Ever remember, and be encouraged and emboldened in the recollection, that there is nothing we can now ask Omnipotent Love to do for us, so great, or so difficult, or so trying as what has been already done. It was a far more difficult thing to do to lay our sins on Jesus than to place His righteousness on us. It cost the Father more to sacrifice His beloved Son than to give us all His treasures. The awful difficulty was conquered on Calvary; all since is easy. Lord, make us believing and bold.

January 15.

"And they shall be unto you cities of refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not."—*Num.* xxxv. 12.

THE justice of God will pursue a sinner until he is in Christ, but not afterward. What a momentous question, Am I in Christ? Such is the infinite dignity of Jesus, that there is more redeeming power in His blood than condemning

power in our sins; more virtue in Him to save than venom in all our vileness to destroy. Jesus is the Refuge. Flee to Him, and you are safe from the vengeance of justice, from terrors of conscience, and the accusations of the accuser. "Who have fled for refuge to lay hold on the hope set before them."

January 16.

"And He said, My grace is sufficient for thee."—
2 *Cor.* xii. 9.

How many times since Jesus whispered these words to Paul has He said the same to His people! How many times has He been to us as good as His word, better than our fears, and sufficient for all things! and so it will be to the end. My grace is sufficient for thee this very day, whoever thou art and whatever be thy need. Multiply finite wants as you please, they can never exhaust the Infinite. Sins, sorrows, snares, and difficulties innumerable, are all as nothing to Him who is infinite. Can you limit His love, or His power, or His grace? May He keep us from the sin of limiting the Holy One of Israel!

January 17.

"And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin."—*Isaiah* i. 25.

THIS is a most comforting promise to those who feel humbled, distressed and dismayed in finding so much base metal with the gold of grace—unbelief with faith, selfishness with love, self-seeking with zeal for God's glory, disobedience with obedience. How consoling to know that every particle of dross shall be taken from every one of Christ's people; for it is written, Christ loved the Church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; that he might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.

January 18.

"The fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe."—*Prov.* xxix. 25.

WOULD you fear man, if you had Jesus with you in a visible form, with the knowledge that He could restrain the winds, chain up demons, make the universe obey? Would you fear man, if you felt your

hand in His hand, and knew that He could supply all your wants, remove all your doubts, conquer all your foes? Would you fear man, or anything that man could do, if you saw Jesus in all His power and glory? No; fear would depart. Believe that He is with you as truly as though you saw Him with your bodily eyes, felt the grasp of His hand, and you shall be delivered from the bondage of fear, and go through life courageously.

January 19.

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."—*Prov.* viii. 17.

TRUE of wisdom; the earlier we begin to store our minds with truth, the easier is the work. True of Jesus, who is called "the Wisdom of God," and who, when on earth, said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." It was a grand promise made to Solomon, when young, that God would give him what he should ask. But here is a far greater, for in Jesus is more than all the wisdom of the universe—in Him are unsearchable riches, and earth affords no lovelier sight than Christ and youth yoked together, with a life of usefulness and an eternity of glory, or both, before the favoured one.

January 20.

"Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days."—*Eccles.* xi. 1.

An allusion to the custom of scattering seed on fields inundated with water. It would appear to be a ridiculous waste, but the waters subsiding, it would be found to be deposited in a most fertile soil, and in due time productive of a luxuriant crop. So it is in the spiritual world. How often we appear to be sowing in vain, in hopeless, discouraging circumstances, in ground the Redeemer has described as thorny, stony, hard; and yet, by the power of His Spirit, there springs up the fruits of righteousness to the great glory of the Husbandman. With man it is impossible; with God all things are possible.

January 21.

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."—*Dan.* xii. 3.

When many of the stars which are now glittering before the eyes of mankind shall be extinguished, then shall those who have gone about this world doing good, in the name and for the sake of Jesus,

shine with a lustre brighter than the sun. Let this be your aim, Christian, to turn men to righteousness, the righteousness of Jesus, the only righteousness for a sinner—not the fancied righteousness of formalism, or of worldly morality, but that which is for all and upon all that believe—and honour and glory beyond all the world could give will soon be yours.

January 22.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him."—*Luke* xi. 13.

THIS must be so. What are all the parental affections but streams from the infinite fountain of the love of God, the universal Parent? How weak, how cold, how insignificant, must the love of a sinful creature be, compared to that of God! Whatever may be the cause of our not having the Spirit, it cannot be the unwillingness of God to give. Believe anything rather than that, and resolve to seek this amazing gift, in faith, in love, in humility, and in earnestness, till you are filled with the Spirit.

Holy Ghost! dispel our sadness,
  Pierce the clouds of nature's night.
Come, Thou source of joy and gladness,
  Breathe Thy life, and spread Thy light.

January 23.

"And this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our righteousness."—*Jer.* xxxiii. 16.

THIS liberated Bunyan from the danger of despair. "I thought that none but the Devil himself could equal me for wickedness; that I was forsaken of God, and given up to the Devil,—when suddenly this sentence fell upon my soul, 'Thy righteousness is in heaven,' seeing at the same time Jesus at the right hand of God. There, I say, was my righteousness; so that wherever I was, or whatever doing, God could not say of me, 'He wants a righteousness,' for that was just before Him—for my righteousness was the Lord Jesus Christ himself, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. Now my chains fell off my legs, I was loosed from my irons, and was never more troubled with these terrible temptations."

January 24.

"And there shall be no more pain."—*Rev.* xxi. 4.

PAIN is a symptom, a symptom of something wrong—in the body, of disease, decay, and death; in the mind, of sin and corruption. As a symptom of evil, pain is in this life a blessing leading to the remedy. But in heaven there is no pain, therefore

no evil; its absence is a sign of a perfect freedom from the curse, from sin, from darkness, and the Devil. Art thou in Christ, but tormented in body and pained in mind? be patient in the prospect of a painless eternity—the rose without the thorn, the sweet without the bitter, Jesus without the cross. "And the inhabitants shall not say, I am sick; the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquities."

January 25.

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound; they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance."—*Psalm* lxxxix. 15.

THERE is but one happy people in the world, but one who can feel safe, and satisfied in God, looking back on the past, forward to the future, onward to all eternity. Who are they? Such as know the joyful sound, experience as a fact that they are accepted in the Beloved, beloved for His sake, saved with an everlasting salvation. Yes, and we should learn from this precious promise that God intends that His people, even on earth, should be in a jubilant state. Even down here, amidst all their trials, temptations, sins, and conflicts, they may rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory—rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks.

January 26.

"They shall walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance."—*Psalm* lxxxix. 15.

THEY shall enjoy the sunshine of the Divine favour. The anger of God burnt against us in the person of our Surety, the frown of offended Justice struck terror into His heart for our sakes; but that has passed away for ever. We are reconciled to God through the death of His Son. How blessed when engaged in the business of life, amid all its cares and sorrows, to look up and see a smile on the face of God. What comfort, what support, what encouragement, to feel the beams of Divine love shining down upon us. "Neither did their own arm save them, but Thy right hand and Thine arm, and the light of Thy countenance."

January 27.

"In Thy name shall they rejoice all the day."—*Psalm* lxxxix. 16.

PERPETUAL pleasure! and all through Jesus. He bears the name of God. "My name is in Him." God manifest in the flesh. To rejoice in the name of God now is to rejoice in Jesus, as the bright-

ness of His Father's glory and the express image of His person. Wherever we are, whatever may be our state of mind, circumstances, or conditions, if we can but realize Jesus and our interest in Him, we may enjoy this perpetual pleasure. Oh, that we may never be permitted to indulge in anything that will prevent us from being able to look up to Jesus all the day long for light, for comfort, and for joy!

January 28.

"In Thy righteousness shall they be exalted."—*Psalm* lxxxix. 16.

WHAT a wondrous elevation for a poor sinner is this! We, who are nothing but sin, made in Christ the righteousness of God! By this we are lifted up out of the condemned cell of sin to the throne of glory in heaven; from the condition of a captive to that of a free man in Christ; from the corruption of the grave to the rank of the living; from the gates of hell to the palace of heaven. We are lifted higher than the angels; their righteousness is that of a creature—ours that of God. "He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill."

January 29.

"For Thou art the glory of their strength, and in Thy favour our horn shall be exalted."—*Psalm* lxxxix. 17.

THE horn is the symbol of power. Believers are the strongest people in the world. They are strengthened with all might in the inner man; through Jesus they can do all things—overcome the world, conquer principalities and powers. Timid believer, lay hold on this promise, and your horn shall be exalted over all your foes. Always in conflict, always fighting, often beaten and baffled, cast down but not destroyed; but the day is not very distant when your foot shall be on the neck of every one of your enemies. "Brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

January 30.

"If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldst have asked of Him, and He would have given thee the living water."—*John* iv. 10.

How much there is lost by ignorance! Jesus here promised the best of blessings to the worst of sinners—and to feel that we are of this number must be one of the best recommendations to His mercy.

The Holy Ghost here offered includes all good things for the soul—illumination, regeneration, sanctification, glorification—purchased by Christ's precious blood, and procured by believing prayer. Temporal blessings follow in the train. The indwelling spirit working within us produces that godliness which has the promise of this life and of that which is to come.

January 31.

"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved."—*John* x. 9.

As a door shuts out or shuts in, so Christ excludes or admits into the Church of the living God. Union to Jesus is union to the whole brotherhood of the holy. All who enter by Christ shall be saved from the penalties of law, the power of sin, and the pains of hell. Have you entered this way? Are you in Christ? Rejoice exceedingly that when the first Adam closed the door, the second Adam opened it; and now you can feel safe, breathe freely, and live happily to Him who loved you. Are you still outside? Let this promise allure you and constrain you to enter by the only way. "Look unto me, and be ye saved."

February 1.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."—*Heb.* xiii. 5.

No being can command a Christian like Christ. He is in a better position to command than any in the whole creation. Having so loved me, died for me, given Himself to me, redeemed me, and promised to be with me to the end, what can I say to any command He is pleased to give, but "Lord, help me to obey?" Here He commands contentment. Surely piety demands it, confidence in God commends it, self profit enforces it; but all these motives move me not so much as the soft whisper of Jesus, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Believing that, I am instantly content.

February 2.

"I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring."—*Isaiah* xliv. 3.

CHRISTIAN parent, this promise is worth more than thousands of gold and silver, if you can lay hold of it and plead it—plead it in faith, without wavering. This is the topmost family blessing, the

crowning act of God in Christ. What is health, wealth, honour, social position, matrimonial alliances, without the spirit of Christ? To-day, dear friend, you may be grieving over Christless children. You do well to grieve, but let your grief carry you to the throne with this promise, and your sorrow shall be turned into joy. "For the promise is unto you and your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

February 3.

"And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses."—*Isaiah* xliv. 4.

PERHAPS the seed of truth is in them. You have been sowing it from their birth. There must be much deep down in their soul; but at present you see no outgrowth, no spiritual life, and you tremble for them. Plead this promise, plead it powerfully, and Christ shall come down as rain on the mown grass, and there shall spring up the seeds sown years and years ago, and there shall soon be seen the faith in Jesus, the love of Jesus, the devotedness to Jesus, which will repay you for all your toil. What can God give better than the conversion of your children? "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

February 4.

"One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel."—*Isaiah* xliv. 5.

You desire that your children may be with you at the Lord's table. Having given themselves to the Lord, you wish them to be numbered with His people, to work hard for Jesus here, and hereafter sit down at the marriage supper of the Lamb. This is a great favour to hope for, more than all heaven could do for you, and of which you are utterly unworthy. But it is included in this promise—and if you please the Promiser, it will be fulfilled—for "whatsoever we ask we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

February 5.

"He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom He loved."—*Psalm* xlvii. 4.

Surely we should be satisfied with God's choice for us. What! has He chosen us for His people? He it was who selected Jesus for us—we should not have chosen Him. He it was who prepared the mansions of blessedness, planned the way, pro-

vided the means, and led us thus far. Shall we not then leave Him still to choose whatever He pleases till the end of life? Yes, Lord, give us grace to see that Thy choice is best for Thy glory and for our good. Let the prayer of our life be continually "Thy will be done." Let no purpose live in our mind which is not part of Thine own most perfect mind.

February 6.

"And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels."—*Mal.* iii. 16.

THEY are the Lord's now. Jesus claimed them: "and all mine are thine, and thine are mine; thine they were, and thou gavest them me, and I am glorified in them." And they are as jewels. As men value these above all things, so God values His people above all creation beside. See the price He gave for them—the precious blood of His only Son; the power by which He saves them; the pains He takes to polish them; and the paradise He has prepared for them. Art thou a believer in Jesus, a hater of sin, and a lover of God and good men? Do believe that thou art one of the Lord's jewels, and that He will one day own you as such before all worlds. Will you care for the world's scorn after this?

February 7.

"And He brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and He said unto him, So shall thy seed be."—*Gen.* xv. 5.

HOWEVER glorious the starry heavens might be when the great Promiser led the patriarch forth, it was not so brilliant as that spiritual firmament will be when each believer shall shine forth as the sun, in the kingdom of our Father. Yes, and you and I, if in Christ, were included in this promise. We are part of the proof of its truthfulness. We help to make up that innumerable company which no man can number. Desponding soul, look to God, and He will lead thee forth, and cause thee to see that thy present mercies are more numerous than the stars.

February 8.

"And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."—*Rev.* xxii. 17.

"FREELY;" that is, gratuitously. Nothing can be plainer than that Jesus can see nothing worthy in us. Had we been worthy, we had no need of His worthiness. The question is not, Are you worthy? but, Are you willing? As sad and shocking transgressors, we must be undeserving—not de-

serving the least of all God's mercies; as ill-deserving, meriting the severest displeasure of God; as hell-deserving, deserving to be banished to that world of woe. But Jesus has deserved heaven for us, and requires no other qualification from us than willingness to accept. Being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

February 9.

"And I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."—*John* xiv. 21.

THAT is, I will continue to love him. "Having loved His own, which were in the world, He loved them unto the end." I will unfold my love—reveal its heights, and depths, and lengths, and breadths—scattering all doubts and fears, and making them believe that I love them. Precious promise! As when the sun rises, all the birds of ill omen, the owls and the bats, flee to their hiding places; so when Jesus manifests Himself to the soul, all gloomy forebodings, morbid melancholy, fearful and nervous imaginings depart; and light, and joy, and consolation, flood the mind with glory. Remember Jesus has promised; plead His promise, take no denial, and He will thus manifest Himself to you, to the great joy and rejoicing of your heart.

February 10.

"For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall lead them unto the living fountains of waters."—*Rev.* vii. 17.

LOOK! as the sea is full of water, the sun full of light and heat, so is Jesus full of God. Almighty in power, perfect in wisdom, infinite in glory, boundless in love, and everlasting in all. What a fountain to fill from! and emptiness, barrenness, guiltiness, with sense of need, and believing, persevering application, is all that is required to become filled. If it be so pleasant to get a sip by the way, what must it be to live at the fountain itself! "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell."

February 11.

"Then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."—*Josh.* i. 8.

WHEN, when shall we be prosperous? When we take the Word of God for our rule, its precepts for our guide, its promises for our support, and its living Redeemer for our righteousness and strength. Old and New Testaments agree in this.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;" and "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done for you." Having the key of all God's treasures, how can we be otherwise than prosperous?

February 12.

"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you."—*John* xiv. 18.

CHRIST fulfilled this promise to His disciples, and will fulfil it to the end. He appeared to dying Stephen, when yielding up his life in His cause. He appeared frequently to Peter and to Paul, whilst fighting His battles and needing comfort and guidance. He appeared to the beloved disciple, when banished to Patmos, and gave him such revelation of the future as must have compensated for the trials of banishment. He is as good as His word still; and by His truth, by His Spirit, and by His own sweet presence, wonderfully comforts and sustains His soldiers on the field of battle, His prisoners in the dungeon, His invalids on the bed of weakness, and, when heart fails, is the strength of their heart and their portion for ever.

February 13.

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."—*Rev.* iii. 10.

"BECAUSE thou, a poor, feeble creature, hast held on in thy feebleness when many stronger gave way, I, the mighty Saviour, will keep thee from falling when the time of greater trial comes." Such is the experience of multitudes. "Faint, yet pursuing," laden with infirmities, encompassed with temptations, often depressed and ready to die—nevertheless clinging to the cross, holding fast to the truth, resolutely aiming to do right at all risks; and such are the favoured mortals who shall succeed and triumph over all.

A feeble saint shall win the day,
Though death and hell obstruct the way.

February 14.

"I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground."—*Isaiah* xliv. 3.

THE fount of every blessing, the love of God in Christ, is infinite, inexhaustible, and free. Floods are always flowing from it, without diminishing it

one drop. Has a sight and sense of sin made thee thirsty? come and drink. Has a view of Jesus and His great salvation made thee long? come and take thy fill. Or art thou panting for the salvation of others? come and ask for it for them. Cry mightily unto God; He will give thee the desire of thine heart, and fill thy soul to the brim with light and salvation. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

February 15.

"Them that honour me I will honour."—1 *Sam.* ii. 30.

GET the godliest motives; they will bring the greatest gains. God, God in Christ, must be the highest motive for a sinner saved by grace. We most honour God when we believe the record He has given of His Son—when we trust Him, love Him, seek to become like Him, and bring as many souls to Him as we can. He is a liberal Lord, a generous Lover, and will abundantly recompense for any little service we can render Him. "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name."

February 16.

"And it fell not, for it was founded on a rock."—*Matt.* vii. 24.

THIS is a prediction of the eternal safety of those who build on Jesus, the Rock of Ages, involving a promise of perfect security in all the trying circumstances of life. Firmly cemented to Christ by faith and love, abiding in Him, united to Him by the indwelling Spirit, growing up into Him in all things, the believer becomes as a mass of granite, solid, compact, lasting. Satan comes and does his utmost, but fails; the world comes and tempts, but fails; Death, the king of terrors, comes, and judgment comes, but nothing moves him from the rock on which he rests. Well may he be called a wise man, wise unto salvation. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

February 17.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."—*Matt.* v. 6.

THE enlightened sinner is one of the hungriest creatures in creation, craving continually after more than the whole universe can supply. How precious this promise to those who feel so sinful

that at times they can see nothing but sin in themselves; who are sick of self, weary of self, and long only for Christ! Mark, not blessed are they that are filled, but they that hunger. Why? because He who excites the desire will gratify it, will not disappoint. Do you intensely desire to be emptied of self and filled with Jesus? Go plead this promise—plead it perseveringly, take no denial, and it shall be "according to thy faith."

February 18.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig-tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these."—*John* i. 50.

READINESS to believe in Jesus is a virtue of great price in His sight. It is a righteous thing; it corresponds with His worthiness of being believed as the faithful and true Witness, and must secure His approbation. Aim at it, pray for it, rest not until you have it so habitual as to have all the power of a second nature. Believe Jesus readily, without doubting or fearing, and he will be as good as His word, and you shall see greater things in Him, in His providence, in time, and in eternity. "Hereafter ye shall see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

February 19.

"Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme."—*Mark* iii. 28.

THAT is to the penitent believer in Jesus; such cannot be charged with that awful sin which is struck out of the list of pardonable offences. What a catalogue would this include, "all sins." Look over the world, think of the variety of sins committed, their iniquity, their deserts, their malignity against God, and terrible consequences. Then what a comforting thought that all are included; and how consoling to look within oneself, and find not one sin but which may be forgiven—nay, is forgiven. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

February 20.

"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, He shall in no wise lose his reward."—*Matt.* x. 43.

WHO can describe the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ! He will forgive the greatest sins, and reward the very least service. He will forget all our iniquities; remember the most trifling act of kind-

ness done to the least of his friends. "He shall in no wise lose his reward." Loss is impossible in the kingdom of Christ. His mention of our name, His acknowledgment as though we had conferred on Himself a personal favour, with our own reflections, will be reward enough. Is this the Master you serve? Are you really on his side?

February 21.

"Meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you; for Him hath God the Father sealed."—*John* vi. 27.

We have an everlasting nature, and require everlasting food, or what prospect would there be but everlasting famine, misery, and death? This nature being spiritual, it must have spiritual nourishment. Matter cannot mingle with mind. Gold and silver cannot become any part of spirit. Houses, lands, bags of money—none of these can feed and satisfy the soul. Merciful Redeemer, what a banquet hast Thou provided for famishing souls! Thou, O Christ, art this food; give us grace to feel our need of Thee—of Thy blood to cleanse, Thy righteousness to justify, and help us to feed on Thy fulness until we are like Thee in glory.

February 22.

"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly."—*Rom.* xvi. 20.

THIS precious promise reminds us of the original prediction concerning the seed of the woman, that the heel of Christ should be on the head of the rebellion, that Satan should get his head bruised in the very act of bruising Christ. As with the Master, so with the servant; the believer's heel may be bruised, but not his heart—the inferior part injured, but not the superior. And the bruised heel, through the power of Jesus, shall help to crush the head of the serpent. Courage, Christian! faint not, fear not—

Though we are feeble, Christ is strong.
His promises are true.
We shall be conquerors all ere long,
And more than conquerors too.

February 23.

"While ye have the light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light."—*John* xii. 36.

"CHILDREN of light"—that is, as children resemble their parents so the soul will become like Jesus, the source of their illumination. Is not this most desirable, to see spiritual things so clearly;

realise God and Christ, and salvation and heaven, so vividly? Light is pleasant, exhilarating, comforting, guiding, saving. Here is precept and promise; obey the one, the other will follow. Christ is the Light of the world. We have Him set before us. If we believe in Him, open our eyes to behold Him, and walk in the light He gives, then shall our path be like that of the sun, shining brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

February 24.

"And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul."—*Acts* xxiii. 11.

THIS was just like Jesus; a servant in trouble, needing consolation and sympathy, and lo! He is there. And He is still the same. How often does He draw nigh to His people in the night, to whisper loving words, apply precious promises, to lead the soul into the green pastures and by the still waters of His holy Word! It is frequently when the world is wrapped in darkness, when the busy hum of mankind is hushed in silence, when the weary pilgrim is kept wakeful by care and anxiety, that our loving Saviour comes to comfort, to strengthen, and to bless. Draw nigh to Him, and He will draw nigh to you.

February 25.

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels."—*Rev.* iii. 5.

THOU art on the field of battle to-day; the fight is fearful, it is getting hotter and hotter, and thou art perhaps ready to faint. Is it so with thee, O Christian? Look up; look to the Promiser; see thyself as every conqueror will one day appear, as thus described by Jesus himself, clothed in the white raiment, in His own righteousness, His purity, in the robe of the victor over sin and hell; and thus arrayed, presented to the Father for His acceptance, and to the angels for their admiring love. Never despond, but believe; never yield, but pray; fear not, He that is with thee is more than all against thee.

February 26.

"In that day shall the eyes of the blind see out of obscurity, and out of darkness."—*Isaiah* xxxix. 18.

"*Out of obscurity.*" A striking description, truly, of the unconverted mind. It is a state of spiritual obscurity: there is sin in its exceeding sinfulness,

but it is not seen; there are evils innumerable, but they are not seen; there are demons of darkness, but they are not seen; there are dangers most dreadful, but they are not seen; and truths most precious, and prospects most inviting—but all is mist, confusion, obscurity, till the Sun rises. Shall we not plead this promise for our brethren in blindness, our fellow sinners perishing for lack of knowledge? Lord, give the spirit of prayer!

February 27.

"He will reprove the world of sin, because they believe not on me."—*John* xvi. 8, 9.

And does not the world need this? Are we not, as Christians, longing for this? Is not this conviction the very commencement of spiritual life and salvation? How then should the Church plead this promise for their families and friends unsaved, for the congregation, for perishing multitudes. "Of sin, because they believe not on me." Yes! this is the capital crime now, the sin which will be the most terrible at the judgment; the inexcusable sin; the root which will bear the fruit of everlasting woe. O Christians, look at the blindness of those who can prefer a life of sin to Jesus! Can any power less than that here promised open the eye, convict the conscience, save the soul?

February 28.

"He will reprove the world of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more."—*John* xvi. 8, 10.

THE justifying righteousness of Jesus—that which the convinced sinner needs above all things to see, for his faith, his peace, and salvation. Believer in Jesus, do you rejoice in this? do you feel your safety in this? do you see that it is the only righteousness possible for a sinner in which he can stand before God? do you see multitudes all around you seeking justification in rites and forms, in shows and shadows? Oh, pray then more earnestly for the Spirit, rejoice in this precious promise, and in answer to prayer the veil shall be taken off the mind, and sinners shall believe in the Lord our righteousness.

February 29.

"He will reprove the world of judgment, because the Prince of this world is judged."—*John* xvi 8, 11.

HE shall convince the world that there is a tribunal before which all must appear, and that no criminal, however great or powerful, shall escape the righteous judgment of God. And why? where is the proof? Because Satan, the first, the chief, the most potent rebel, is judged; and if the Lord

Jesus could, by His power, defeat him in His life on earth, vanquish him by feeble men in preaching, and destroy His power everywhere; then he can judge every rebel, and reign till all His enemies are made His footstool. Precious promise to those who are harassed by the Tempter! they shall put their foot one day on this great enemy to their peace.

March 1.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desire of thine heart."—*Psalm* xxxvii. 4.

WHAT privileges are involved in this promise and precept? What infinite sources of delight must there be in Jesus, in His person, in His word, in His works and ways? This is our privilege—not only to look into this wondrous ark, but to enter into the designs, plans, and purposes of our Lord, until they become our own, and we learn to say, Not my will, but Thine; not my honour, but Thine. And what must follow but success? He will bless and prosper the efforts of those who thus desire and aim at His glory. This is the shortest, the surest, and the safest way to the highest success, delighting in doing the will of our Lord.

March 2.

"I will pray the Father, and He shall give."—*John* xiv. 16.

WERE we prisoners needing a friend to plead for us, we should wish to have one very clever, very sympathising, very successful, to whom we could confidently commit our cause. What a promise is this! Behold in Jesus all the needful qualities for an advocate. Speak we of ability? He is wonderful in counsel and infinite in understanding. Of sympathy? where is love like His? Of plea? His own precious blood answers all accusations, meeting the demands of the most impartial justice, and delivering from all condemnation. He is willing to undertake the worst cases, always succeeds, and requires no fee. "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

March 3.

"But my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall never be abolished."—*Isaiah* li. 6.

NOTHING short of this can satisfy the cravings of a living soul—a righteousness; but it must be for ever. If so, none but Jesus and His righteousness will do for us. The righteousness of angels was perishable, and in those who fell it perished for ever. The righteousness of Adam, however

lovely, faded and fell before the power of the Tempter. But the righteousness of the saints will survive the glory of the sun, will be unhurt by the flames of a burning universe, and will shine for ever and ever. *Hast thou this righteousness?*

This spotless robe the same appears
When ruined nature sinks in years;
No age can change its lovely hue;
Its glory is for ever new.

March 4.

"And thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."—*Matt.* vi. 4, 6.

THERE is no need for a child of God to court human applause, the world's honour, or man's praise. Let him aim to please God, to serve Christ, endure to the end, and he shall have as much fame, and as much glory, as his happy nature can bear. Oh, what is the notice of the creature, compared to the regard of the Creator! What would be the approval of the universe, compared to the smile of God! "Reward thee openly," in the presence of all the holy angels—and for what? So great is His love, so encouraging to poor sinners needing it, that He will take notice of, publicly own, approve, and reward, the least act done for Him. O God, keep us from ostentation; let us die to self, to society, and live to Thee!

March 5.

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication."—*Zech.* xii. 10.

THIS is a grand promise, and when fulfilled to its full extent, we may expect that the latter-day glory is at hand. Till then it should be pleaded, that every Church may have this great gift, that every family may be stirred up to pray, that every believer may have the resolution of Jacob, and take no denial. Hast thou this spirit of grace and supplication? Hast thou, under its influence, seen Jesus, seen Him crucified, seen Him slain by thy sins? Has this spirit melted thee, made thee mourn, and moved thee to penitence and prayer? Bless the Lord for this immense favour, and use it for His glory.

March 6.

"He shall glorify me: for He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you."—*John* xvi. 14.

JESUS is all glorious, full of glory; in Him, are all the glories of man, of angels, and of God. Unsearchable riches are His; in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; He is full of grace and truth. Therefore, in glorifying Him,

the Spirit here promised has but to receive of Him and shew it unto us; then is Jesus glorified. Christ is glorified in His people, in their illumination, their conversion, their salvation, their usefulness. And all arises from the Spirit revealing Him fully to them, in them, and by them. Do you desire that Jesus may be glorified in you? plead this promise, and it shall be according to your faith.

March 7.

"They shall walk with me."—*Rev.* iii. 4.

HERE they had but little society and friendship, they were shunned, discarded, scorned: in heaven they shall have the best of beings for their companion and friend. The society of angels will be most blessed, the fellowship of saints most precious; but the friendship of Jesus, how will that compensate for the loss of earthly friends! When you feel that your path is a solitary one, solitary because you cannot sympathise with sin and sinners, look upward to Jesus, realise this promise vividly, and the very anticipation of that smile, that look of love, that affectionate embrace, will make you forget your loneliness, and be content with your lot.

March 8.

"They shall walk with me in white."—*Rev.* iii. 4.

In purity; every stain of sin shall be taken from their character, every principle shall be rooted out of their nature; the fountain being holy, the streams shall be pure; they shall be as free from sin as though they never had sinned. What a promise is this! What omnipotent grace is required to fulfil it! Oh, ye that are smarting under a sense of sin, weary and heavy-laden with it, behold in this promise the pledge of immortal holiness. Fight on, contend earnestly against the adversaries of your soul—your conflict shall end in the complete deliverance from all evil and the enjoyment of every good.

March 9.

"They shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy."—*Rev.* iii. 4.

Mark, it is Jesus who calls them worthy. He who made them so by clothing them with the wedding garment of His own dear-bought, blood-bought righteousness—"It was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord

God ;" He who made them so by the gift and grace of His blessed Spirit—"the King's daughter is all glorious within ;" and by the discipline of His providence co-working with His grace, made them meet for the exceeding honour He crowns them with. Oh, the love of Jesus! that He should call us worthy, and reward us as though we had deserved it at His hands.

March 10.

"Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree."—*Isaiah* lv. 13.

GRACE reverses nature, works contrary to nature; for in the ground that is barren of all spiritual good, and prolific of all evil, there spring up plants which convert the wilderness into a garden of the Lord—instead of ignorance, knowledge; instead of unbelief, faith; instead of selfishness, love and good works. Are you desponding, lamenting over the evils of your wicked heart, striving, but striving in vain, against them? Be of good courage; look to Jesus; there is in Him a power and a will to do even greater things than these, "according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

March 11.

"And it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."—*Isaiah* lv. 13.

THE Church of Christ, composed of a company of such sinners, free from all their original vileness, without blemish, and adorned with every grace as the beautiful Bride of the Lamb, will be creation's wonder, the miracle of mercy, and the glory of God. Let this thought cheer thee, Christian friend, that in pleading this promise you are asking God to glorify himself, advance His kingdom, gratify His Son, and diffuse the greatest good throughout His vast dominions. "Lord Jesus, glorify thyself in saving me!" is a most acceptable prayer. "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light."

March 12.

"Whosoever shall do and teach them, shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."—*Matt.* v. 19.

MOST merciful arrangement! "Do and teach"—not teach and do; doing is teaching in the most effective manner. And what can be more terrible than

after teaching others to be cast away for not doing! It is a blessed law that binds us first to become doers, then teachers. "Shall be called great." Not by men of the world, not considered great in this world, but great in God's heavenly kingdom, in the glorious eternity, where the righteous shall shine forth as the sun. Go on, patient labourer, doing God's will, teaching His truth; heed not shame, nor scorn, nor contempt; thy Lord whom thou art serving seeth thee, and will promote thee to honour when many of the great ones are down in disgrace and misery.

March 13.

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness."—*Zech.* xiii. 1.

GLORY be to God! this is no longer a prediction, a promise of the future, but a fact. Yes, the fountain was opened on Calvary! Since then what countless sinners have had their souls cleansed from all their sins! It is flowing still, flowing to-day, flowing for you, for me, for all who will come. Not for the house of David only, but for Gentile as well as Jew. Are you cleansed from sin? Are you pardoned, or is sin imputable unto you? Plead this promise, if you never pleaded it before, and you shall be made white as snow.

March 14.

"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her."—*Hosea* ii. 14.

How many ways has the Lord Jesus of winning us to His love! Rightly understood, perhaps all that He does, all He gives, and all He withholds, is for the self-same purpose, the gaining of our affections. This promise is fulfilled spiritually still. He can so influence our minds as to make us feel that all creation is as a wilderness—unsatisfying and barren; and it is when we are brought to feel this, and made to long after Him as the only and all-satisfying portion of His redeemed people, that He does speak comfortably to us. Jesus is generally most precious when the world is most perplexing.

March 15.

"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord."—*Hosea* vi. 3.

THE promises of God are to the persevering, not to those who yield to evil, and give up the good. If any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him; he is not fit for the kingdom of heaven. We shall know the Lord—the Lord

Jesus—in all the glory of His divinity, and His humanity, as the God-man; know His wondrous love and tenderness, and mighty power; we shall know Him by a happy experience of His grace; He will be unveiled before us: and when we see Him the whole creation shall be dimmed before His glory, and we shall say with Paul—"I count all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."

March 16.

"God shall help her, and that right early."—*Psalm* xlvi. 5.

STRONG faith looks into the future, leaps over mountains and hills of difficulty, annihilates distances between present trouble and future help, sees Christ coming instantly to our rescue, and anticipates the moment with unspeakable joy. The time may to us appear long, especially when in pain; but let the suffering saint realise the sympathising Saviour, believe in the intense love of His compassionate heart, and the almighty power in His hand; and he will find support and comfort in the fact that Jesus will come, and not tarry; He will soon move out of the way everything between His people and their full enjoyment of His love.

March 17.

"Thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures."—*Psalm* xxxvi. 8.

OUR Lord's loving desire that His disciples might partake of His joy, is the best illustration of this promise. It is overpowering, the prospect opened up for us, in this one fact, that we shall drink at the same fountain, be satisfied from the same source of happiness, as infinite Jesus. He is unutterably happy, enjoys more than all creation combined, from the holiest springs; and to think that we shall drink of the river of His pleasures! Here we have but a foretaste of the pleasures of friendship with God, if doing good; and, but a little while we shall be at the spring-head of eternal bliss.

March 18.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart."—*Psalm* xxvii. 14.

WAITING on the Lord—this is the secret of success; realising a present, living, loving Saviour, holding constant fellowship with Him, and drawing deeply from the fulness of Him that filleth all and in all.

Do this, persevere until it is the daily, hourly habit of the soul, and you shall experience the truth of this promise. However timid, you shall be full of courage; however prone to despond, you shall not despair; boldly and bravely shall you advance against all opposition—until, having conquered all your enemies, you shall rise to receive the crown of life which fadeth not away.

March 19.

"Because I live, ye shall live also."—*John* xiv. 19.

SHARE and share alike. What language from the lips of incarnate Deity! Perfect partnership with the wisest, wealthiest, holiest, and mightiest being in the universe! The immortality of the believer is not his birthright, but the gift of grace—"Because I live, ye shall." Judicial life the same: Jesus having died for sin is eternally justified; believers are justified in Him. From Him, also, as from a fountain, flows our spiritual life. We shall perish when Jesus perishes, not before.

If my immortal Saviour lives,
Then my immortal life is sure;
His word a firm foundation gives:
Here let me build and rest secure.

March 20.

"He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."—*Micah* vii. 19.

It is well we have this promise; for if the Saviour did not do what is here stated, we could not be saved. He will turn again, turn His face and smile, although we have sinned; turn His hand of power, and subdue this unbelief, this pride, and this lust. How often must the Mediator put His hand to the work of sanctifying our souls, and hurling our sins away as into the depths of the sea, or we should never be saved! It is our shame, and we confess it; but it is His glory thus to have compassion on His most unworthy people.

March 21.

"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."—*Eccles.* xi. 6.

In this, our Lord is the best pattern. He went about doing good. We find him early in the morning sowing the seed of truth, and continuing till the day was far spent, fully relying on the promise of His heavenly Father, and the absolute certainty

of success. Get your basket well filled with precious seed, the glorious Gospel of God, each grain of which is more valuable than gold. Have thine heart full of love, thy lips ready to speak wisdom. Embrace every opportunity offered, believe that the harvest will be great, and that you will be among the happy reapers. "Be instant in season and out of season."

March 22.

"For the Lord will not forsake His people for His great name's sake: because it hath pleased the Lord to make you His people."—1 *Sam.* xii. 22.

It is an unspeakable mercy that the honour of God is concerned in our salvation, that what is for our good is for His glory. So here, He declares that He will not forsake His people, because it was for His great name's sake that He made them His people. How comforting is this, that when we can find no plea in ourselves, when we feel so worthless that we dare not look up, we can see all worthiness in Jesus, we can say—Help, Lord, for thy glory sake; save, Lord, for Him who has Thy name; forsake not the work of Thine own hands, make Thy glory shine in our salvation!

March 23.

"The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: Thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness."—*Psalm* xli. 3.

He who when on earth condescended to wash the feet of His disciples, and who has promised to wait on them when their work is done, does not think it beneath Him to make the bed of His poor afflicted people, and strengthen them in their languishing. Does this meet the eye of some invalid, confined to the bed of sickness? Think of this promise; think of it as for you; realise Jesus as though with His own hands He made your bed; believe His gracious word; remind Him of it, and you shall find this to be all true. Redeeming love will stoop to anything to help the redeemed.

March 24.

"If any man enter in, he shall find pasture."—*John* x. 9.

What a mercy that in this wilderness there is a fold, in this desert the finest pasturage! Such a fold, such a Shepherd, and such provision—glory be to God! Entering into spiritual life by Jesus, quickened by His Spirit, illumined by His grace,

hungering and thirsting after soul-food and soul-drink—we see scattered all through the Scriptures of truth this precious pasturage, a most abundant supply, equal to our need. God grant us a good appetite, a healthy spiritual digestion, that we may thrive and grow, and do credit to our Shepherd and His feeding. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters."

March 25.

"So shall the King greatly desire thy beauty."—*Psalm* xlv. 11.

How much do we owe to that wondrous prayer of Jesus! But for that, could we have ever dared to think that He could desire us, long to have us with Him. Yet so it is. He does desire the presence of His people; He is preparing them for it; He is making them beautiful; He greatly desires their beauty; and this promise is fulfilling. Is there no beauty in that gracious work of the Spirit—the illuminated mind, the faith, the love, the meekness, the patience? What more does the Saviour desire, but that we may become perfect in every virtue and every grace, that thus He may present us faultless to His Father, and delight in us for ever?

March 26.

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."—*Matt.* v. 10.

JESUS would have us, when persecuted, look above the persecutors, beyond this life of trial, to that world where persecution is impossible. He would have us by faith draw aside the veil which conceals the invisible, and behold the prophets who have been persecuted, and the company of martyrs; and in view of the amazing glory of that scene, how little would all present sufferings appear. Are you persecuted? do you find it hard to bear the mockery of men, the reproach of Christ, the contempt, the oppression of the enemy? Believe this promise of Jesus, rely upon His Word, and you will be able to rejoice exceedingly, and count yourself honoured in being permitted to suffer for His name's sake.

March 27.

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." *Matt.* x. 32.

THINK of this when tempted to deny thy Saviour; keep eternity in view; and ask not how a principle, or a pleasure, or a purpose looks now, but how it will look when the world is wrapped in flames, the

judgment-seat fixed, the books opened, and thyself standing to be acquitted or condemned! He who, in his calculations shuts out from his view the considerations of eternity, is like a person who, in arithmetic, leaves out a principal figure; his conclusions must be false and fatal. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed."

March 28.

"They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever."—*Psalm* cxxv. 1.

THIS is gloriously true when applied to faith in Jesus, who is our Lord. He is the Rock on which the Church is built. By union to Him, we become partakers of His fulness. Just as the branch partakes of the properties of the vine, so He being rock, we become rock-like. Trust firmly in Him; and then, as the mountain stands in the sea unmoved by the billows of the deep foaming and dashing against it, so you, weak and feeble as you are in yourself, shall stand amidst all the waves of the world's temptations and trials unshaken, unmoveable, and strong. "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto me, so that I might finish my course with joy."

March 29.

"Their Redeemer is strong: the Lord of Hosts is His name: He shall thoroughly plead their cause."—*Jer.* l. 34.

He has done it, is doing it, will do it, effectually, and for ever. He pleaded our cause in the Council of Eternity, when He engaged to become our Surety. He pleaded our cause when he offered that most marvellous prayer recorded in John, and when He expired on Calvary, to the eternal defeat of our enemies, and the everlasting comfort of our souls. He ever lives to plead the blood He has shed for us. He pleads within us continually; He shall prevail, and we shall be saved. Are you wanting a powerful pleader before God? Remember that it is written, "If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

March 30.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."—*Matt.* v. 3.

"Poor in spirit"—not poor in purse, for many are proud even in rags; not poor in intellect, for some of the wisest are the humblest; not poor in courage, not cowards, for some are the bravest of men: but the persons meant have the lowest views

of themselves, and the highest views of Christ and salvation, looking to and leaning on the All-sufficient One. Theirs is the kingdom; not, shall be—but theirs now. Its principles are theirs, its possessions, its privileges, and its prospects—all things are theirs. Are you poor in relation to this world, and tempted to repine? Try to count up your riches, and your mouth will be closed to all complaints, and open to praise Him who made you rich—"Rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom."

March 31.

"I will heal their backsliding."—*Hosea* xiv. 4.

We cannot sin without wounding our souls; and having wounded ourselves, there is but one who can heal. Because God alone can forgive, restore peace, impart power to prevent sin, He only can heal. Behold, what manner of love is this, that after our wicked and wanton departures from Him, yet He has provided such wonderful Healers and such effectual and healing balm! Are you a backslider? have you grown cold, neglected duty, given up His cause who died for you, and so wounded that precious soul? Listen to this promise; look to the Lamb of God and the Spirit of God. Take the comfort of this; return, return, and you shall be healed.

April 1.

"And when I see the blood."—*Exod.* xii. 13.

God looking at the blood of Jesus is the most momentous fact for sinners. It is interesting to know that angels look into these things, that countless hosts of redeemed ones look at this precious blood; but most important to know that the Eternal Judge is looking at it. And He never looks off. The atonement of Calvary is conspicuously before His mind; and wherever He sees it applied, on whomsoever it is sprinkled, it is so efficacious that the blackest sinner becomes, as it were, white as snow in His sight. Salvation is the result of God and the sinner looking at the blood. The Ever Blessed promises that He will not smite thee, but bless thee for ever, if that blood be upon thee.

April 2.

"And when I see the blood I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you."—*Exod.* xii. 13.

How great a satisfaction must Jehovah find in the precious blood of His Son! "Therefore," said Jesus, "doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life and take it again;" therefore hath God

highly exalted Him, and given Him a name above every name, and promises that He shall have a numerous seed to recompense His pain. How great the satisfaction that prevents Him destroying the sinner, although so exceedingly guilty in His sight. And if so, with what boldness should we plead this promise, and how satisfied if we can feel that the cleansing, sanctifying, saving blood is upon us—the offering and sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

April 3.

"The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."—*John* iv. 14.

A SPRING, not a stream only; living water, not stagnant; everliving, never to be dried up; cleansing, refreshing, fertilising the dry and barren soul, making it like a garden of the Lord. Who can estimate the value of this well! Who can sufficiently admire the Giver or the gift! This indwelling Holy Spirit, Jesus promises on one condition, that we ask Him for it—so full of grace and truth is He. Let none be without light, and love, and holiness, and happiness, when it is so freely offered and so generously given.

April 4.

"Lo, I am with you."—*Matt.* xxviii. 20.

OBSERVE the connexion. Jesus had said all power is given unto me in heaven and earth. He then gave His commands, and adds, "Lo, I am with you," as though this fact would meet all cases, supply all wants, prevent all fear, and fill with the fulness of joy. You need not go to Cæsar for his sword, nor to the world for its help, nor to the angels. I have all power, and I am with you, wherever you may be, and in every circumstance. Lord, help us to say: "It is enough, Thou art with us; Thou art more than the whole creation; pardon the weakness of our faith; make us feel Thy presence and power."

April 5.

"Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."
—*Matt.* xxviii. 20.

How could it be otherwise? Can any one conceive such a contradiction, for Him who created all things and upholds all things to be absent from those whom He made, governs, guides, and employs? Is there any one of the varied offices of

Jesus that He can fill, except He be everywhere present? Accustom yourself to realize this magnificent fact, this most precious promise; give yourself no rest until you can see Jesus so vividly, by spiritual discernment, that His glory shall eclipse all other glories, His presence be more real than any other—that your soul may be filled with light with love, and with joy.

April 6.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne."—*Rev.* iii. 21.

It would seem that just as low as we have been laid by sin, Christ is determined to raise us by His grace; that, as Satan has trodden us beneath his feet, and debased us even to hell, so our compassionate Saviour will lift us to the highest heaven. He must have us with Him, and even to share in His dignity and grandeur. One would have thought it marvellous to be permitted to sit at His footstool in glory; but nothing less will content this infinite Lover than the Bride must be with Him on the throne. What motives are these to make us fight valiantly the battles of the Lord!

April 7.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go."—*Psalm* xxxii. 8.

THE Lord is never at a loss for means to teach us the way in which we are to go. He can make the trees of the field instruct us, the birds of the air, little children, and little things; for all are His servants. By His Word, by His Spirit, and by His providence, He will guide everyone who seeks His help. Attempt not to go alone, lean not on thine own understanding; but seek Him who holds the mighty orbs in His hand, who marshals the stars in their courses, who guided His people through the wilderness, and will direct all who put their trust in Him. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

April 8.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me."—*John* vi. 37.

CONCERNING these, Jesus declares that this is the Father's will, "that of all which He hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day;" and He came to do His Father's will. For these He prayed, "Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given me;

that they may be one as we are one, that they may be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory." Referring to these, He said, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one Shepherd." Oh, blessed necessity thus laid upon the Good Shepherd! Oh, glorious certainty to all who are seeking to win souls to Christ! Heaven and earth shall pass away, but these words must be fulfilled.

April 9.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh I will in no wise cast out."—*John* vi. 37.

"*Shall come to me*"—from all parts of the world they shall come, speaking various languages, dressed in different garments, living in all manner of customs, having every variety of opinion; they shall come, and nothing shall stop them, "for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Moved by my Spirit, drawn by my love, melted by my grace, won by my tenderness, encouraged by my promise, they shall come. Casting away their righteousness and their unrighteousness, flying from sin and Satan for life and salvation, they shall come; and coming, I will never cast them out; and so all shall be saved, to the great glory of the Saviour.

April 10.

"Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out."
—*John* vi. 37.

"In no wise"—on no consideration whatever, under no circumstances; nothing shall ever induce me to frown upon, to turn away from any sinner, who in sincerity, in faith, in penitence, and in prayer, comes to me for salvation. How can He reject? Was it not in His heart's desire, long before the foundation of the world was laid, to save sinners? Was not this His avowed design when incarnate on the earth? Did He not work miracles, teach in the streets, pray to the Father, die on the cross, and now lives to intercede, that sinners might believe and live? Away with your doubts and fears, cry mightily unto God against this Christ-dishonouring, this soul-destroying unbelief, and come this very moment, and you shall be saved.

April 11.

"For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee."—*Isaiah* liv. 7.

The love of God in Christ is immutable in principle, but variable in its manifestations; the same in essence, but different in its unfoldings. Hence the

varieties in the experience of believers — days of darkness and days of illumination, clouds and sunshine, smiles and frowns, make up life. It is only for a moment; but God's moment may appear an age to His children. Fear not, the clouds will soon disperse; the Sun of Righteousness shall shine with healing in His wings; and sighing and sorrow shall flee away. "This God is our God for ever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death."

April 12.

"In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer."—*Isaiah* liv. 8.

THE sun is the same sun when obscured by clouds or hidden by fog; the sea is the same sea whether ebbing or flowing; and so Jesus is the same kind, loving, tender-hearted Jesus, when hiding His face as when shining full into the soul. As the parent loves his child as much when he is correcting as when he is caressing; as God loved Joseph as much when in prison as on the throne, loved Jesus as much when on the cross as in glory,—so, thou afflicted one, believe that God loves you now in your affliction as when pouring prosperity around you. "Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself; O God of Israel, the Saviour."

April 13.

"With great mercies will I gather thee."—*Isaiah* liv. 7.

As when a parent, seeing the sorrow of his penitent child, hastens to the embrace of forgiving love, as Joseph could no longer refrain from giving vent to his pent-up affection, as the father of the prodigal ran and fell on his neck and kissed him—so does Jesus, after hiding His face, trying the faith of His followers, pour into the soul a fuller tide of blessedness than before, and with great mercies gathers them to His embrace. Hence, after deadness comes the revival, after darkness a glorious light, and when hope had well-nigh expired, then the Lord appears. "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

April 14.

"With everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer."—*Isaiah* liv. 8.

True of heaven. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. Jesus will receive us as He received Stephen. May we not describe

Him as saying, then, "For a small moment did I forsake thee, but I will no more forsake thee for ever. With great mercies, with everlasting kindness, I will now gather thee; thou shalt be with me and behold my glory. No more darkness, no more death, no more hidings of that lovely face, no more doubts, fears, or sorrows; there they have no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it, for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."

April 15.

"He will show you things to come."—*John* xvi. 13.

THIS came to pass; hence the predictions of Paul and John, and others; their heaven-inspired words still being fulfilled, and will be to the end of time. But the promise is for us also; He will show us the meaning of their words, He will draw aside the veil concealing the future; above all, He will so reveal the eternal state, the heaven of joy and the region of woe, that we shall be stimulated to pursue our pilgrimage with ardour and unflagging zeal. As Abraham, inspired by this Spirit, rejoiced to see the day of Christ, so we shall leap with joy in the revelation of that magnificent future which is preparing for Jesus and those who love Him.

April 16.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."—*Rom.* x. 13.

WHAT a warrant is this! authorising every sincere seeker to go right up to the throne of grace, and obtain the vastest blessings an immortal soul can receive or the infinite Jehovah bestow. What a warrant is this, signed and sealed by the eternal Jehovah, ratified by the precious blood of Jesus, and delivered to every poor sinner that is willing to be saved. You are welcome, whoever you are, to all the blessings of salvation. Do doubts arise? quell them with this; does Satan tempt? answer him with this; take it with you to the throne, the Lord bids you. Listen—"Put me in remembrance; let us plead together; declare thou, that thou mayest be justified."

April 17.

"And I will set up one Shepherd over them, and He shall feed them."—*Ezek.* xxxiv. 23.

THIS is a promise of Jesus; and gloriously is it realised in the Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for the sheep. God, in giving Christ to us, has given us more than all he gave to Adam before he

sinned, and yet we are sinners; in Him is the true and lasting Paradise, the heaven of God's eternal love and our eternal life. God, in giving Christ to us, has given more than all the holy angels possess, for He is the creator of angels; and yet we are vile sinners, and they sinless! Who can fathom such free, undeserved, bottomless love! Thanks be unto God, for His unspeakable gift. Happy sheep, with such a shepherd and such pasture!

April 18.

"He that believeth shall not make haste." — *Isaiah* xxviii. 16.

IMPATIENCE never pulled up a bad principle nor planted a good one. He that believeth the promises will be grateful for all that is right, and patiently endure what is wrong. The Lord Jesus is never in a hurry: He is waiting till all His enemies become His footstool; and in proportion as we live in fellowship with Him we shall wait, and not make haste. "One minute," says Fleming, "sooner than God's time would not be His people's mercy." "And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and forty years, even the self-same day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt."

April 19.

"And great shall be the peace of thy children."—*Isaiah* liv. 13.

NOT political peace, for there may be wars and rumours of war; not domestic peace, for a man's foes may be of his own household; not social peace, for there may be panic and pestilence; but spiritual, holy, eternal peace. This is promised to all God's children, and purchased on Calvary. It is a great peace, indeed; peace with a great God, purchased at a great price, produced by a great power, and possible in the greatest trials. Believe fully on the Lord Jesus, cleave to Him closely, and this peace is yours. "I will both lay me down in peace and sleep, for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety."

April 20.

"He that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."—*John* vi. 58.

YOU take a book, read it, think over it, make the ideas of the author your own; they become part of your very self, and so far you receive mental life and strength, as by eating bread you receive bodily

life and health. Thus we feed upon Jesus, spiritually, not literally. In this the letter killeth, the spirit giveth life. It was taking Christ's words literally that made the Jews stumble and fall; it had much to do with killing their minds, and with killing the Master. But if we feed by faith on the slain Lamb, meditate daily on the Crucified One, we shall find, to our everlasting joy, that this gracious promise is abundantly fulfilled.

April 21.

"I am the Bread of Life; he that cometh unto me shall never hunger."—*John* vi. 35

"NEVER hunger," because there is enough in Jesus to satisfy all the cravings of the most needy sinner, and He, being always at hand, hunger may be appeased. Ask:—what spiritual wants can there be which cannot be abundantly supplied? Is it truth you want, the truth of God?—in Him are hid all the treasures of knowledge. Is it a righteousness to justify you before God?—He is the Lord our righteousness. Is it holiness, strength, happiness, and the blessed life beyond this?—all, all is in Jesus? Oh! there is bread enough in your Father's house for you, for all. Why perish with hunger?

April 22.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."—*Matt.* v. 8.

WHEN we see Jesus, we see God; as He said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father also." He is the only mirror in which we can see God fully. Neither trees, nor suns, nor men, nor angels, not all combined, unfold the Eternal; but in Jesus we see the entire glory of the Father. This promise will be fulfilled when we see Him in all the glory of heaven—see Him as He is. What a motive to press forward in the pursuit of purity, fighting against sin, firmly resisting evil, grateful for the discipline of Providence, that we may be prepared for the full manifestation of the wonder of wonders—God in Christ in glory. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me!"

April 23.

"Knock, and it shall be opened."—*Matt.* vii. 7.

THE door, opening the vast, the infinite treasures of God's boundless love and mercy to man. Oh, could we see through that opening, could we behold the riches of grace and glory laid up for poor, needy sinners, we should think this one of the most mag-

nificent offers made to us. And yet it is really so, wonderful as it may appear; it is our privilege to knock at this door, with the confidence that our Jesus, who has the key, is most willing to open it to us and give what we ask. Will you not knock at this door? Will you not knock in faith? Will you knock until it is opened by Him who shed His blood that we might have most freely the riches of grace?

April 24.

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."
—*Matt.* v. 4.

God is a God of order in grace as well as in nature. There is a method in mercy: there must be contrition before consolation, the wounding before the healing, sorrow before joy. Are you mourning over sin, weeping for want of holiness, sad and cast down as destitute of goodness? you are amongst the blessed of the Lord. Oh, what rivers of comfort are provided for mourners in Him. Yes! you shall be comforted; the Comforter shall pour into your soul the choicest of consolations. All the consolation that is in Christ, all that can flow from a sense of pardon, peace through the blood of Jesus, acceptance with God, a prospect of glory—all shall be yours. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

April 25.

"He that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."—1 *John* ii. 17.

THAT is, will last for ever. Ask—Will it live in heaven, this principle I am acting on, this habit I am cultivating, this line of life—will it, can it, continue after death? What a comforting assurance that all that we do in harmony with the will of God is in the hands of Jesus, who has promised to raise it up at the last day. These principles of love, and joy, and holy obedience shall be transplanted from the garden of grace to the paradise of glory, to flourish for ever, to the praise of the Redeemer. "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth; for ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

April 26.

"Who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself."—*Phil.* iii. 21.

THE body of the believer, although fearfully and wonderfully made, is a mean abode, too good for us as sinners, but not good enough for the temples

of the Holy Ghost and the members of Jesus; therefore it must be changed. Ah! wondrous wisdom and love and power! He became like unto us in our frailty and feebleness; took upon Himself the likeness of our sinful flesh; and now we are to be exactly like Him in glory and splendour. Help us, Lord, to grasp this promise!

Arrayed in glorious grace,
Shall these vile bodies shine;
And every shape and every face
Look heavenly and divine.

April 27.

"He that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."—*John* xii. 25.

THAT is, in one sense, to treat life as though we hated it. We easily part with, we cast from us, that which we hate. Thus we may be so absorbed in the service of our much-loved Master, as to sacrifice ease, comfort, happiness, expending our life for Him who shed His blood for us. This was true of the martyrs who loved truth, and Christ, and the glory of God, more than life, and so parted with it as readily as though they hated it. But life thus lost here is lost but for a little while; it will be found, found in rapture, found to our eternal honour and joy, in that world where we cannot die.

April 28.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."—*Isaiah* i. 18.

"THOU art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity," said the awe-stricken prophet; "and God declared that sin is the only but terrible barrier between sinners and Himself." Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and yet He promises to make them white as wool. How is this? Because we are finite, He is infinite. Our sins are the sins of creatures; His mercy is the mercy of a God: the ocean of Christ's precious blood is infinite, it has neither brim nor bottom—sins confessed, sins hated and forsaken, thrown into it, are gone for ever.

April 29.

"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."—*Psalm* l. 15.

No particular trouble is mentioned, because Jesus is interested in all the troubles of His people—because He is able to deliver from all, and stands engaged to do so. In all their afflictions He is

afflicted. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. Has He delivered you? then see that you glorify Him. Remember every deliverance increases your obligation to your great Deliverer. Every member of your body, and every power of your mind, every part is most marvellously redeemed. From how many deaths, from how many pits, has He rescued us!

April 30.

"He that is righteous shall be righteous still."—*Rev.* xxii. 11.

Oh, most comforting promise! Many have said, Angels fell from their innocence in heaven, Adam from his purity in paradise—why may not the redeemed fall again? Fall again! Impossible. They are one with Jesus, and can no more fall than He. Will He become mutilated, the Head losing the members? They are righteous in the everlasting righteousness of Jesus. Can this ever fail? Impossible. They are the dear-bought purchase of His precious blood. Could He see of the travail of His soul, if they were lost? They are secured in the covenant, ordered in all things and sure; and is not this binding on the God of Truth? It is a grand thing to be a Christian, to be kept in righteousness for ever.

May 1.

"He shall teach you all things."—*John* xiv. 26.

We find that the Holy Spirit inspired men and women, so that they were wise-hearted in the construction of the Tabernacle; that in answer to prayer, God gave Solomon wisdom to build the Temple. Just so may we expect that He will teach us all that we need to know for His glory, and for the salvation of souls. Yes; and surely this promise must include all that we need to guide us day by day, that in our little or great perplexities we may be kept from care and mistake. No perplexity is beneath the notice of infinite love.

May 2.

"But Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded, world without end."—*Isaiah* xlv. 17.

Clothed with the robe of our Saviour's righteousness, cleansed by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we shall not be confounded at the bar of the Eternal Judgment. Jesus will be the Judge. In us He

will see the product of His agony, the reward of His sore travail, and the reflection of His own image. He cannot deny Himself, nor turn away the meanest member of His own body, but will graciously welcome us, and make us most blessed for ever. Oh! the blessedness of being in Christ, that we may have boldness at the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world!

May 3.

"In that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book."—*Isaiah* xxix. 18.

THIS was fulfilled by our Lord, who cured deafness with a word; and there are instances now of persons recovering this sense. But may we not apply this promise spiritually? Were not the miracles of healing the body intended to lead us to believe in the greater miracles on the mind? If so, let us plead this promise on behalf of those who are deaf to the solemn warnings of the Word, deaf to the sweet music of mercy, deaf to the voice of conscience, of providence, and of mercies innumerable. Who can tell how many will hear the voice of the Son of God, and hearing, live?

May 4.

"God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved."—*Psalm* xlvi. 5.

"IN the midst of her;" by His Spirit pervading every part, every member, making her the habitation of God. "In the midst of her," by His Son incarnate made one with her. Who can describe this marvellous fact! Oh, for a spiritual eye to see God in His Church, God in us, God within our mind, whilst our very body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. "Therefore, she shall not be moved"—not moved from His love, not moved out of His covenant, nor out of His hand, not by all the billows of the deep, nor the storms of trouble, nor the malice of Satan. Safe, eternally safe, is this redeemed Church of the living God. Am I a member of it? then how firm and fearless should I go through this life to a better!

May 5.

"For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death."—*Psalm* xlviii. 14.

"I ASCEND," said Jesus, "unto my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God;" intimating that it is through Him that God is our God in a

saving sense—reconciled, friendly, covenant keeping God. And what He is to Jesus He is to us; and what He is to-day in glory He will be to the end of time, onward and for ever, an unfailing, untiring, faithful guide, portion, heaven—all! Can you say this? Is this your happy assurance? Then you will surely be content with such things as you have, be patient in tribulation, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

May 6.

"Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching: Verily I say unto you, that He shall gird Himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."—*Luke* xii. 37.

WHO can comprehend the condescension of infinite love? To what will it not stoop? The same Jesus evidently. He who washed their feet here, will wait upon them there. If Christ loved us when we were enemies, will He not love us wondrously when reconciled? If He loved Saul when persecuting Him, would He not love him much more when serving Him? What it will be we must die to know; but let it be a reason to work hard for such a Master. "To die is gain;" "to be with Jesus is far better."

May 7.

"The effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever."—*Isaiah* xxxii. 17.

THAT is, the righteousness of God by faith in Christ. This alone can bring everlasting peace. He is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever; His work the same in value for ever. Precious promise to those who are clothed with that justifying robe; it will comfort us all through the changes and trials of time, and when time shall be no more. Become united to Jesus, and you shall have peace in life, peace in death, peace at the bar of Judgment, when the world is in flames, and the universe in ruins; for when the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, this salvation shall be for ever, and this righteousness shall not be abolished."

May 8.

"The tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly."—*Isaiah* xxxii. 4.

PENTECOST proves the perfect power Jesus has over the tongue. How complete, how effectual, was that energy by which the Apostles, without learning, without premeditation, spake in the various

dialects of the assembled multitude, so that each understood the wonderful works of God. But is this more amazing than the creation of that organ at first? Our faith is feeble indeed if we cannot believe that He who made all things can make us speak plainly. Do you wish to tell of His grace, to publish His love, to draw souls to Him? Go to Him, plead this promise, and you shall become fluent and fervent in His cause. "Be not faithless, but believing."

May 9.

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall receive them."—*Mark* xi. 24.

It has been remarked that when Satan intends to defeat the Saviour in the souls of His people he sends in an army of doubters; this is painfully true, and powerful to answer his wicked end. How much we lose by want of faith when praying, the Lord only can tell! Against unbelief we ought to rise with all the might of God; against this giant evil we should incessantly watch and pray; and never rest until we can go into the presence of God with the most undoubted confidence that our prayers shall be answered. Faith is the gift of God.

May 10.

"For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth."—*Amos* ix. 9.

SAFE, notwithstanding all the sifting! All that is essential shall remain unchanged, unhurt, undiminished after all the tossings of time, the shocks, the agitations, the conflicts of this world, the swellings of Jordan, and the scrutiny of eternal judgment; principles safe, possessions safe, soul saved. The chaff, the dross, the refuse, scattered in the sifting, but not one grain of grace lost. "Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not."

May 11.

"Yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth."—*Amos* ix. 9.

How highly must the Ever Blessed One prize even the least grain of grace! How did Jesus praise it, and how tenderly and powerfully does He watch over it! He looks more to the wheat than to the weeds—the one He determines shall grow and ripen, and be gathered to the harvest; the other He leaves

to wither, and consigns to destruction. The field which hath millions of weeds in it is a cornfield for all that. The believer in Christ has real grace, notwithstanding countless corruptions, and therefore shall be saved. "Fear not, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

May 12.

"His soul shall dwell at ease."—*Psalm* xxv. 13.

It has been remarked that it is not the will of Jesus that His people should have one wrinkle of care on their brow, and they would not have so many had they the wisdom to follow His advice. Collect together all He said on providence, the care of our heavenly Father, the tender, touching, and faithful words of comfort He spake to His disciples ere He left them in this rough world, His prayer for them, His dying for them, the promise of the Comforter—and it will be seen how much He desired their perfect freedom from all anxiety and care. We shall dwell at ease in proportion as we dwell in Jesus and He dwells in us.

May 13.

"For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity."—*Psalm* cxxv. 3.

THERE can be no just cause for a believer in Christ to do wrong to escape from the hands of the wicked—no reason for speaking falsely, equivocating, acting dishonestly. Want of faith in these promises leads them to commit sin to get out of a difficulty. Believers are in the hand of Jesus; they are not in the power of the wicked, for the Father hath given them to Jesus, with the government of all things. Oh, blessed truth, that I am not the sport of chance, nor my own keeper, nor the victim of Satan! "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil."

May 14.

"All thy children shall be taught of the Lord."—*Isaiah* liv. 13.

THAT is, spiritual children—the children of God by faith in Christ; born of the Spirit of Christ by the instrumentality of the Church of Christ. "For we are become dead to the law by the body of Christ, that we should be married to another,

even to Him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Precious promise, wondrous privilege, to be thus educated by the Holy Spirit, led into all truth, trained for usefulness and happiness on earth, prepared for blessedness in heaven! "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man, therefore, that hath heard and hath learned of the Father cometh unto me."

May 15.

"If any man serve me, let him follow me: and where I am there shall also my servant be."—*John* xii. 26.

Do you wish to serve Jesus? Imitate Him, tread in His steps, act upon His principles by imbibing His Spirit, and you will most effectually promote the end of all His love—holiness, happiness, benevolence, the good of man, and the glory of God. And when you have served Him awhile here on earth, you shall ascend, rise above this world, and be for ever with Him. What a Master! Shall we say a word of difficulty, danger, sacrifice? What an honour to be like Him who is the altogether lovely! What a benefit conferred on ourselves; what good in such an example to society; and what an abundant recompense in living with the Lord for ever!

May 16.

"And if ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it."—*John* xiv. 14.

We read that the Apostles took Jesus at His word: "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the Mother of Jesus, and with His brethren." This made them the most powerful party in the world at that time. Cæsar and his dread legions, Satan and all his angels, were nothing against them. So will it be with any believer who will make the utmost use of this mighty name.

The humble suppliant cannot fail
To have his wants supplied,
Since He for sinners intercedes
Who once for sinners died.

"Pray without ceasing."

May 17.

"Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"—*John* xi. 40.

Eternity alone will tell what we lose by not minding what Jesus said—what we lose of truth, of wisdom, and of comfort. How pleased He was with faith; what promises He made to those who trusted in Him—and He is still the same. He is

saying to us now: If thou wouldest believe, thou shalt see the glory of God, the grandest sight in creation. Art thou dark? thou shalt see the glory of God in enlightening you; or dead? in raising you; or distressed? in comforting you: and all you see here is but a glimpse of the glory to be revealed. "That when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

May 18.

"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him."—*Rom.* vi. 8.

CHRIST died; rose again; ascended to glory as a public person, on behalf of His redeemed people, as their Surety and Representative. Therefore virtually, in the eye of law, they died, rose, and ascended with Him. Now the death was preparatory to the life—"Knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over Him: for in that He died, He died unto sin once; but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God." Therefore His death for us is proof and pledge of our life with Him. Art thou a believer in Jesus? Rest then assured that the life will follow; that as He went from the cross to the crown, so you will ascend to live together with Him.

May 19.

"Thou shalt see greater things than these."—*John* i. 50.

If we could but draw aside the veil, and see what Jesus intends doing for us, how should we rise above present troubles, and live in comfort and triumph. Yes, if we believe His word, we shall see greater things than any we have yet seen. What discoveries are yet to be made! what wealth yet to be possessed! How does the Lord love to be trusted! What promises He has made to faith! We should seek a faith that would pierce through the veil which conceals the future, and see Jesus coming swiftly to our eternal deliverance.

May 20.

"None of them that trust in Him shall be desolate."—*Psalm* xxxiv. 22.

They may be in relation to the creature—friends may all fail, resources become exhausted; they may be fearfully alone in the midst of a multitude; but having Christ, He being more than all, they cannot be desolate. Trust in Him, and all He is

will become yours, all He has yours, and all for your good. Cultivate the thought that Christ is more than the whole creation, and He is yours, and you cannot feel desolate. To those who love Him, realise Him, enjoy Him, He is society, company, fellowship, and He will make Himself such, to the unspeakable joy and gladness of their hearts.

May 21.

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing."—*Zeph.* iii. 17.

How was this promise fulfilled in the days of Jesus! In this attitude He appeared in this world, the Good Shepherd rejoicing over the lost sheep; as the brother of His poor friends, seated at the same table, and rejoicing with them; and now in glory He is rejoicing over them with great joy. Salvation is the Lord's work; "He will save." Salvation is His favourite work; "He will rejoice over thee." Salvation is his satisfying work; "He will rest in His love, and joy over thee with singing."

May 22.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."—*Matt.* v. 9.

THEY are happy in having God for their Pattern, who is called the God of Peace; Jesus for their Prince—He is the supreme Peace-maker; and the Holy Spirit for their Guest, for He dwelleth in the sons of peace. They shall be called the children of God, acknowledged now by our loving Father, and owned at the great day of account. They wear the image of Him who, in the interests of peace, abandoned heaven, wandered about this world, sacrificed Himself to break down separating walls, to unite man to God, man to man, and bring in the reign of everlasting peace. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

May 23.

"Ask, and it shall be given; for every one that asketh receiveth."—*Matt.* vii. 7, 8.

WHAT so simple, what so certain, what so successful, as a life of prayer! Our Lord, in this promise, would have us to go to our heavenly Father as little children approach a most kind and loving parent.

And one of the grandest triumphs over our proud, distrustful hearts, is when we are brought to live the life of perfect dependence, firm and unfaltering trust, on Him who is infinitely worthy of our confidence and love. Go, then, in this spirit to thy Father in heaven; go without doubting; ask without wavering; and thou shalt receive all, and more than all, thou canst need for time and eternity. What is this promise, but giving the key of the treasury to gain the greatest riches?

May 24.

"Thou hast a few names in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; they shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy."—*Rev.* iii. 4.

How many of the Lord's people are in the same circumstances as the brethren in Sardis! few and feeble in the midst of error, infidelity, and vice. Honourable position, however despised by man. Jesus thinks so; His loving eye sees them, His heart is with them, His hand shall be stretched forth to save them here; and He will, as He promises, honour them hereafter. Better be saved with the few than perish with the many; better to resist all evil, if it cost the loss of life, with Jesus on our side, than yield, and make Him our foe.

May 25.

"Because I live, ye shall live also."—*John* xiv. 19.

THIS glorious fact shines out everywhere in the words of Jesus, that there is a marvellous mingling of interests between Christ and His poor people. I am overwhelmed in thinking of the contrast between us—He the Eternal, and I of yesterday; He possessing the treasures of Deity and the universe — I nothing; He the Spotless One — I all defiled. I can bring nothing into the cause but sin and misery, and yet am to be a partner with Him. All I can say is—

Lo! glad I come; and thou, blest Lamb,
Wilt take me, guilty as I am:
My sinful self to thee I give;
Nothing but love shall I receive.

May 26.

"And ye shall find rest for your souls."—*Jer.* vi. 16.

REST! rest! how many are longing for rest! There are weary and worn-out sons of pleasure; there are the pilgrims to the better land, tired of the vanities of this; there are many convinced of sin, many contending with sin, longing for rest; and

many more dying, but unprepared for death. Oh, how these long for rest! and multitudes tossed upon beds of agony, seeking rest and finding none —all longing for rest. In Christ is peace for all who will come; peace by pardon, peace by the power of His Spirit, peace in death and for ever. "The Lord shall give thee rest, from thy sorrow and from thy fear, and from thy hard bondage."

May 27.

"By the greatness of thine arm, they shall be as still as a stone."—*Exod.* xv. 16.

THIS will be as true of the sins of every believer in Jesus as it was of the Egyptians. Now they are lively, very lively; the day shall come when they will be as still as a stone. Their accusations shall be silenced by the blood of God shed for them; it cleanses from all sin. They shall be no more active in the soul; they shall be remembered but as past and pardoned, awakening gratitude for the grace which washed them all away for ever. "Still as a stone"—entirely extinguished, annihilated, dead, buried, without the possibility of a resurrection. Be patient, be prayerful, be valiant. Sin shall be conquered. "And in their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault before the throne of God."

May 28.

"He will keep the feet of His saints."—1 *Sam.* ii. 9.

YES, every part of the saint is precious to Eternal Love: the hairs of the head numbered; the tears put in the bottle; and here we are told that the feet are not beneath the notice of their Infinite Friend. Who can utter the love of God in Christ! He will keep the feet from sliding into error, from stumbling into sin, from falling into perdition, and preserve them to His heavenly kingdom. The promise implies that they are not capable of keeping themselves; and happy are they who, feeling their own weakness, relying on Divine strength, looking up for direction, are kept from falling here, and presented faultless before God, with exceeding joy.

May 29.

"And there shall be no more curse."—*Rev.* xxii. 3.

WHAT a contrast to this sin-smitten world! The curse followed the crime, as effect follows cause; but Jesus as soon appeared to mitigate, to relieve, and to save. We owe it to Him who became a

curse for us, who endured the penalty due to us, that we can hope to live in a region where there is no curse. God in Christ being there, no evil can enter; having atoned for our sins on the tree, the curse cannot follow Him who made an end of transgression, and we are saved through Him. Thanks be to God, for this brilliant hope to live for ever in a world where there shall be no more curse! Is this your hope?

May 30.

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."—*Isaiah* xxx. 21.

THIS promise is being continually fulfilled. Jesus is never absent from His people, never uninterested in their wants; and as really, though invisibly, talks with us by the way as when He communed with the disciples going to Emmaus. Did He not speak to Paul in the night, to direct and to comfort? Has He changed since then? Oh, there is no need to continue in a state of perplexity and doubt, with the Counsellor, the Advocate, the Brother at our elbow! "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him, and He will show them His covenant."

May 31.

"One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the Lord your God He it is that fighteth for you, as He hath promised you."—*Josh.* xxiii. 10.

In the spiritual warfare, the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. It does not depend upon human sagacity or human power, but on the strength which the Great Captain imparts to His soldiers. He it is that fighteth for us. He looks upon our foes as His foes, and fights against them as against His own enemies. Oh, the comfort of this to those who believe in Jesus! How it inspires us to feel that we are not alone on the field of spiritual conflict, but that every moment we have One before whom Satan and all his legions must flee.

June 1.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."—*Matt.* xi. 28.

The earth is covered with multitudes of toiling labourers, weary pilgrims; but amidst these various classes there is one specially noticed by Jesus, to whom this promise is made—those who are weary and worn out with sin, and long to be entirely and eternally rid of it. Come, thou

weary one, be of good cheer! thou art the very person invited. Here in Jesus is the only rest: rest for the intellect—He is the truth; rest for conscience—for His blood cleanseth from all sin; rest for the affections—for He is love, and loveth thee with an everlasting love. "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, who shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek, and His rest shall be glorious."

June 2.

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."—*John* xiv. 13.

WHATSOEVER blessing we may ask, it cannot be above the merits of the case; because, when we are in Christ and plead in His name, we are as He is; our cause is His cause, His merits our merits, which infinitely outweigh our demerits. God is greatly glorified in doing us good—it displays His love; but much more so when He blesses us for Christ's sake, because it magnifies His holiness with His mercy, and brings out the harmony of all the attributes. Oh, with what holy, humble boldness should we plead, did we see and feel the preciousness and power of the name of Jesus the Crucified!

June 3.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."—*John* viii. 32.

THAT is, if ye continue in His Word, become disciples indeed, learning of Him, taught of His Spirit—then shall ye know the truth, the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, in its meaning and its might. And is it not freedom the sincere inquirer is seeking? Is it not be delivered from the fetters of ignorance and of sin? to be emancipated from the fatal power of bad habits, which hold him in such bitter bondage? Persevere, then, in seeking to know the truth. Follow Jesus fully, implore His Spirit earnestly; and as the meaning of Christ's words dawn upon your mind, and your heart becomes leavened by their influence, your fetters shall fall, your bonds shall be broken, and you become a freeman in Christ.

June 4.

"Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her."—*Luke* x. 42.

HE wants for no treasure who has Christ for his portion. Out of Christ, there is nothing fit for the soul to stay itself on—in Christ, all that it

can possibly need. Collect before your mind's eye all that is valuable in the universe; Jesus is more precious than all. He is the soul's great necessity, the soul's supreme choice, the soul's eternal treasure. And He declares that the portion we have in Him shall never be taken from us. He must be mightier than the Almighty who shall do it. "He which hath begun a good work will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

June 5.

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean."—*Ezek.* xxxvi. 25.

No language can express our need of this promise, because none can realise his exceeding vileness before God. Humbling, galling, terrifying is it at times to see how the leprosy of sin spreads over intellect, conscience, affections, and will, till we feel to be one mass of corruption. But we need not despair; there is an infinite stream of grace flowing through Christ, which can and which shall wash away sin. Ponder this promise well, ye who feel your vileness. Plead it daily, plead it in faith, and the day will come when not a spot shall remain on you. "From all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you; a new heart also will I give you."

June 6.

"The Lord knoweth the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be for ever."—*Psalm* xxxvii. 18.

THE flowers may fade, the solid rocks crumble, the everlasting hills give way; but the inheritance of the Christian continues untouched. If wealthy, he may lose all his wealth, but his inheritance will not be diminished thereby. He may lose his life, and yet be as rich as when living; for the Lord Himself is the portion of His people, and He is the same, yesterday, to-day, and for ever. What manner of persons ought we to be, with such riches, such an estate! How holy, how happy, how contented! Let such as have no inheritance in God seek Him without delay; he is poor indeed who has not good which can never die.

June 7.

"The Lord will not leave Him in his hand nor condemn him when he is judged."—*Psalm* xxxvii. 33.

YOU may be thinking that you are left in the hands of the wicked: it looks like it; but it is not so. You are, if a believer, in the hands of Jesus—given

to Him as your Lover, Friend, Keeper, and no one can pluck you out of His hand. Did we realise this truth, did we learn to believe that wicked men are but the instruments of God's purposes, that He will use them just so far and so long as they answer that end, we should be kept in perfect peace, stayed on God. "Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee; the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain."

June 8.

"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God."—*Psalm* l. 23.

God loves a grateful creature; He delights in those who delight in Him, and do Him credit as their God by their cheerfulness and contentment. To such here is a great promise: He will show them His salvation—the most wondrous sight that can be seen. He will show them this, by unfolding the Saviour to their mind, forming Christ in their heart, delivering them from sin here, and raising them to glory hereafter. It is a grand thing to walk uprightly, so as to please God, and lead Him in mercy to honour us by His great salvation.

June 9.

"He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.—*Psalm* lxxii. 12.

PERHAPS you are feeling thus this very day; looking into self, or looking at your family, or looking at your duties, dangers, temptations—you are saying within yourself, "I am poor and needy, and there is no human creature capable of helping me." Is it so? Then is this promise for you; it is concerning Jesus, who stands by your elbow ready to help you. Go in this state of mind, with this deep sense of need, this feeling of helplessness; believe that you are the very person He loves to save, and seek Him till you are saved.

June 10.

"Unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings."—*Mal.* iv. 2.

OF all descriptions of Jesus, this is one of the most magnificent; of all the precious promises, this is one of the most precious; and it is made to the humblest, and in the world's idea the meanest, of the family of God. As the sun is the source of all

light, heat, life and gladness, so Jesus is the source of all spiritual good to everyone that believeth. How is it with you to-day? Is Jesus thus within you as a bright, beautiful, blessed luminary? Are you rejoicing in Him as your wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption? If not, why not? Here is the promise—very plain, easily understood—why not? Study this scripture well, and rest not until your mind is as a temple illuminated with the Sun of Righteousness.

June 11.

"Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for He shall pluck my feet out of the net."—*Psalm*, xxv. 15.

THIS is the attitude of every healthy, wakeful Christian—his eyes ever toward the Lord, "looking unto Jesus" as the author and finisher of his faith; and so he is preserved. The path of life is thickly strewn with snares and nets; the great fowler is bent upon their ruin; they get sometimes entangled and taken: but a stronger one plucks their feet out of the net; the snare is broken, and they escape. But this may meet the eye of some soul snared and captured. Let him look to the Lord, who can break every fetter, open every prison, and set them free.

June 12.

"The Lord will give strength unto His people." — *Psalm* xxix. 11.

ALL kinds of strength, according to their needs—bodily strength, mental vigour, and spiritual might. What strength was imparted to David when he slew the giant, to Samson when he pulled down the Pagan temple! and He can infuse strength now as then. His arm has not decayed; Christ can give you any kind of power you need—power of spiritual vision to see spiritual things, power of will to make you firm as a rock, energy of soul to make you willing and obedient—all power pertaining to life and godliness. Go to Jesus in all feebleness; never yield on account of weakness, but seek strength to enable you to do all things.

June 13.

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna; and I will give him a white stone, and in that stone, a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."—*Rev.* ii. 17.

JESUS has consolation to give which the world knoweth not of. He can whisper, "I am thy salvation," when we are ready to die lest we should

lose it at last. He can say in the still small voice, "Thy sins, which are many, are all forgiven; go in peace," when we are saying, "I would give the world to know." And He can give the white stone of acceptance, when Satan is giving the black stone of rejection, and fill us with the full assurance of faith, to our great delight. Christian, would you know these secret comforts, these heart-cheering cordials? remember, it is to him that overcometh they are dispensed. Fight courageously, and they are yours.

June 14.

"Seek, and ye shall find; he that seeketh findeth."—*Matt.* vii. 7, 8.

THAT is, all that God in Christ hath promised. The promises are the rule, the warrant, the guide. He is successful who, ascertaining what is promised, resolutely determines that nothing shall hinder him, and seeks until he finds. This assurance of Jesus does not engage our heavenly Father to give us what we seek directly. He may keep us waiting, waiting, perhaps for years; but, provided that it be according to the Divine will, finding will be sure to follow earnest seeking. And is He not worth waiting for? is not the Lord's time the best time? "Wait on the Lord, and He shall strengthen thy heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord."

June 15.

"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power."—*Psalm* cx. 3.

THIS implies a sad truth, that even the Lord's people are not always willing to work for the Lord. How should it make us hang down our heads with shame! how should we detest that, whatever it may be, which causes coldness, deadness, or sloth in the service of Jesus! In view of this, how precious is this promise, that He who has a power in reserve, a power equal to all our wants, will exert it; and forthwith a multitude may start forth, voluntaries, willing to work for their Lord.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.

June 16.

"The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between His shoulders."—*Deut.* xxxiii. 12.

COULD an angel be in a safer place? and is not this the place of every believer in Jesus? Can Satan take him from the arms or from the shoulders of

the great Shepherd of the sheep? What! is he stronger than Almighty power, stronger than redeeming love? O Christian! realise this promise—you are the beloved of the Lord, you are loved with an everlasting love, with loving-kindness have you been drawn from the power of Satan, who once led you captive] at his will, to the embrace of the Saviour. Be not afraid, only believe.

June 17.

"And there shall be no night there."—*Rev.* xxi. 25.

No night of ignorance, for the Lord is the everlasting light; no night of affliction, for the days of mourning are ended; no night for sleeping, they need no rest from toil and labour, for they have everlasting strength; no night of spiritual darkness, for the face of God is never hidden, the evidence of grace never obscured; all is sunshine and brightness. O brethren, to what are we going! what glory awaits us! Here we are struggling on through mist and fog, through days of darkness and sorrow; but it is to emerge from all into clear, unclouded, effulgent sunlight, in the presence of God and the Lamb. Glory be to God!

June 18.

"Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholdeth him with His hand."—*Psalm* xxxvii. 24.

PETER'S falls, Peter's mistakes and recovery, illustrate this promise. He attempted to walk on the water, began to sink; but the mighty hand prevented him going to the bottom. He went into the place of temptation, was tempted, failed, was grievously cast down, but not utterly; he was mercifully restored, and became a better man, a better preacher for his falls. Are you cast down? has the Tempter had the advantage over you? Don't despair; don't keep down; but look up to that hand still stretched out to save, and learn to walk humbly with thy God.

June 19.

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace."—*Isaiah* xxxii. 17.

DIVINE peace, the only peace worth having, must be the effect of righteousness. Peace at any price is not allowed by upright men of the world; it is impossible in religion. There can be no peace to the wicked: the character of God forbids it; the

moral order of creation, the agony of the Cross, the constitution of our minds, render it impossible. Sin must be blotted out, its stain removed by the blood of Jesus, before we can have solid peace. Most precious is this promise of a righteous peace: "O that thou hadst hearkened unto my commandments, then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea."

June 20.

"And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not: I will lead them in paths that they have not known."—*Isaiah* xlii. 16.

We are all born blind; having the capacity for knowledge, but no knowledge. We are always blind to the future, and most blind in relation to the spiritual; therefore, we greatly need guidance. When God gave His Son as the Light of the world, and through Him the Holy Spirit, this splendid promise was fulfilled. Perhaps thou art feeling thy blindness this very day; perplexed, bewildered. Lay hold of the hand held out, plead this promise; be humble, be willing to be led as a blind beggar through this world, to the heaven of rest. "He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation."

June 21.

"And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee; for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."—*Luke* xiv. 14.

JESUS places himself as in the position of a debtor on behalf of the poor; what they cannot pay themselves He engages to pay for them. As He paid their debts to infinite Justice on Calvary, so He here engages to pay what they owe to men. What a mighty influence would this promise have, were it fully believed and realised! And is there any reason to doubt it? Can we doubt any word He has uttered since He sealed all with His own blood? Lord, increase our faith; open our eyes to see Thee in all Thy poor members, that we may do good, expecting to receive nothing from them, leaving all reward to Thee.

June 22.

"He that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about."—*Psalm* xxxii. 10.

WHO can describe the difference between the condition of being out of Christ and in Christ? He that trusteth the Lord is in Christ, and being thereby one with Him, old things pass away, all

things become new, and mercy becomes mingled with all and everything about him. To what can we point and say, There is no mercy in it for the Christian? Pains, temptations, afflictions, these are all turned into mercies, made to work together for his good. Realise this, O ye fearful ones!—trust in the Lord, lean upon His promise, and you shall find that you are encompassed about with mercy as an atmosphere.

June 23.

Thy shoes shall be iron and brass, and as thy days, so shall thy strength be."—*Deut.* xxxiii. 25.

THIS day, with all its duties, dangers, engagements—whatever demand they may make upon thee—strength there is enough in Christ for thee, and ready to be given at thy request. The path may be very rough, the way hedged up with thorns, but this strength will be to you as shoes of iron and brass, which will protect, preserve, and never wear out. Trust, then, in the Lord; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. Plead this promise, and you shall find that you will be able to work hard for the best of Masters, be preserved in the midst of the greatest dangers, and reach home safely at last.

June 24.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord."—*Jer.* xxx. 17.

JESUS came to heal the wounds of sin and Satan, to restore health to the soul, and present us faultless before His Father in glory. Are you feeling your spiritual wounds—wounds inflicted by the sins of your former life, or by the fiery darts of the wicked one, or by the daily departures from God? Here is a promise; plead it. The Physician has not forgot his calling; there is no work that He delights in more than healing hurt minds. However incredible, we believe it is fact, that Jesus is more pleased with saving souls than with ruling worlds. "The Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted."

June 25.

"I will be their God."—*Gen.* xvii. 8.

ALL the troubles of life cannot outweigh this one comfort—"God is mine;" the ocean of this bliss would swallow up all the sorrows possible to this life. And this comfort comes entirely through

Christ—Christ's love, Christ's death, Christ's intercession. "God is our God, because He is Christ's God, and will be our God as long as he is Christ's God." How much owest thou thy Lord? I owe God to Him, God with all His infinite blessedness, and glory, and power.

The ground of my profession
Is Jesus and His blood;
He gives me the possession
Of everlasting good.

June 26.

"Lo, I am with you alway."—*Matt.* xxviii. 20.

THIS implies that the union between Christ and His people is so real and so intimate, that there can be no separation. Where He is, they are; where they are, He is. He is with us as the very basis of our being, for He made us and upholds us. He is with us as our living Head, for the Head of every man is Christ, and we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. Therefore, in parting from His disciples, He said: Remember that although you will not see me in the flesh, I am with you alway; you are so united to me and I to you, that separation for a moment is impossible.

June 27.

"Lo, I am with you alway."—*Matt.* xxviii. 20.

THIS promise expresses the most affectionate interest in our welfare. He knew full well the fiery trials that awaited His followers, the fierce opposition they would have to encounter; and therefore He would have them to remember that whoever might desert them, He would be with them; whoever might hate, He would love; and whoever might oppose, He would befriend them. So still. He is saying to every believer: I am more deeply interested in your welfare than anyone else can be; I am with you by night and by day; I regard what is done to you as done to me; I will help, sanctify, and save.

June 28.

"He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."—*Rev.* ii. 11.

WHAT a mighty promise is this! Hell is the second death, with its penal fires, its tormenting plagues, its accusing conscience, its mocking fiends, and the vengeance of an angry God. It is the death of all happiness, all honour, all godliness. Remember, Christian soldier, the battle is one of

life or death—eternal life or eternal death. Let this promise animate thee to resolve never to yield to the tempter and his wiles. What! shall we, for the sake of a little ease, a little of the world's esteem, a few of its bewitching smiles, run the awful risk of losing the eternal smile of Jesus, and suffer the immortal agonies of the second death? God forbid! O Jesus, arm us with Thy Spririt; nerve us for the contest, and take all the glory for ever.

June 29.

"He will guide you into all truth."—*John* xvi. 13.

THAT is, all spiritual truth, the truth which is essential to our salvation, which it is necessary above all things for us to know. We are not promised a revelation of scientific, but saving truth. Men can discover the secrets of nature without the special grace of the Spirit; but not the secret things of God: these are spiritually discerned. Are you in darkness and doubt? are you thirsting to know God and His love, Christ and His salvation? Are you in difficulty about any doctrine or any duty? Plead this promise, and you shall be guided into all truth. He is faithful that hath promised.

June 30.

"Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me."—*Jer.* xlix. 11.

WHO can utter the compassion of God in Christ! Who can tell the love unfolded in this precious promise! How many a dying husband and father has it comforted; how many a desolate widow has it sustained; how many fatherless children has it encouraged! And the proof of the Divine faithfulness in fulfilling it is all over Christendom. What are those noble institutions for the orphans, but proofs of fidelity to this promise? And how many thousands of widows are preserved, guided, and blessed in this land, who could set to their seal that God is true. Blessed are all those that put their trust in the Lord.

July 1.

"He that loveth me shall be loved of my Father."—*John* xiv. 21.

JESUS here makes a promise in the name of His Father, of whom He was the representative. He knew Him fully, and could answer for Him, as He does in this promise. Eternity alone will reveal the depth of this assurance. Not till we are in heaven shall we know. But there is this consola-

tion: that if we love Jesus we shall be loved of the Father, and He will give us a glimpse of it here below. Love Jesus, love Him sincerely and ardently, and you shall have numberless proofs that the Father loves you. Collect together all your trials and disappointments and difficulties, and what are they to this fact—the great Jehovah loves you?

July 2.

"For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say."—*Luke* xii. 12.

THIS was for special cases, and a very touching proof of our Lord's tenderness and love. He omitted nothing; He thought of everything and provided everything that His people could possibly want to the end of time. But the precious promise is also for us—for those of us, and we are many, who are timid, nervous, and yet often called upon to speak in trying circumstances; for those who are afraid to pray before their families and others; for all who suffer from slavish fear—we say it is for you, for all—for all were before His infinite, loving mind. Believe it, plead it; persevere in pleading, and you shall succeed.

July 3.

"And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people; and they shall say, The Lord is my God."—*Zech.* xiii. 9.

CHRIST and His people often meet in the furnace—He the refiner, they the gold—and mutually recognise each other. He manifests Himself to them, and they see His loving hand, supporting whilst smiting, consoling whilst chastening. Be faithful, be patient, be resigned, and thou shalt have the presence of Jesus to cheer thee, the Spirit to purify thee, the pure gold of grace to enrich thee, and heaven at last to receive thee.

July 4.

"For I will pardon them whom I reserve."—*Jer.* l. 20.

Do you wish to know whether you are among this favoured company? Paul writing to the Thessalonians says, "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." Do you believe the truth? Are you effectually called? Are you converted to God, consecrated to Christ? Do

you feel as one set apart from the world, from sin, from Satan, and really living to the Lord? If so, you are reserved—saved out of the general wreck and ruin, set apart by God for God; and if reserved, most surely pardoned—not a sin will be laid to your charge in time or eternity. "For thus saith the Lord, The iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found."

July 5.

"And verily thou shalt be fed."—*Psalm* xxxvii. 3.

WERE we but sparrows, we should be the objects of Divine regard and compassionate care; were we but ravens, and cried for food, Jesus would listen to our cry; but He tells us we are of more valne than many sparrows, and better provided for. Present to his mind from before the foundation of the world; engraven on His hands, and never to be erased; purchased by His precious blood, justified, sanctified, saved—how can we be otherwise than most dear to Him? and if so, how cruel is it to think He can leave us to perish! Lord, pardon the thought, and prevent it for ever. "But now, thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not, for I have redeemed thee."

July 6.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."—*John* xv. 7.

THIS promise lets us into the secret of successful prayer. Jesus was always heard and answered. He who is one with Him, abiding in Him, and who has His word effectually working within him, must be as much like Jesus as possible in this world. His motives in prayer will be the motives of Jesus; his desires like those of Jesus; his petitions, being in harmony with God's will, must be acceptable, and therefore will succeed. Would you prevail with God? seek to become filled with Jesus, and for His sake your prayers will be answered—

Since He for sinners intercedes,
Who once for sinners died.

July 7.

"But ye shall be named the priests of the Lord."—*Isaiah* lxi. 6.

WHAT a dignity belongs to the Christian! He is a priest—every believer is a priest, the entire Church constitute the royal priesthood, of which the Lord Jesus is the head, the great High Priest. What a privilege is involved in this promise! In this we are like Jesus, not that we have an atonement to

make, or merits to present; but as He intercedes in His own name, we are to plead that name on our behalf; as He prays for us, we are to pray for others; and pleading through Him, we are sure to succeed. O Christian, keep your eye on your model, avail yourself of this most precious privilege, singing as you go "Unto Him that loved us, and made us kings and priests unto God: to Him be glory for ever."

July 8.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."—*Rev.* vii. 17.

LOOK forward, and consider the fact that the period will come when the whole of time spent on earth will appear as a mere point lost in the boundless, endless, and painless eternity, "mortality swallowed up of life." Learn now, for your support and comfort, to contrast present bodily pain with the entire freedom from all pain; the mental anguish here with the delights of the glorified intellect there; the sorrows in the vale of tears below with the pleasures of the paradise above; the absence of the presence of Jesus now with the everlasting enjoyment of the light of His countenance in heaven; and your light afflictions, which are but for a moment, will work for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

July 9.

"And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."—*Jer.* xxix. 13.

THIS is the substance of many promises, the tone and tenor of the entire Book of God, and marvellously unfolded when Jesus went about this world offering Himself and His unsearchable riches to all who would accept Him. We see success following earnestness in the busy world around us. We see greater marvels than in any day since creation's dawn, and shall we be slack and slothful in finding Him who engages to be found by every sincere, earnest seeker. Remember, to find Him is to find all—light, life, salvation, grace, and glory. Be earnest, and succeed. "So run that ye may obtain. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."

July 10.

"He that humbleth himself shall be exalted."—*Luke* xviii. 14.

"BETTER be a poor worm than a proud angel." Better walk humbly with God in poverty and pain, than proudly with princes in prosperity and pleasure. Humility is far more essential than many

take it to be. What spiritual blessings can we have without it? Truth?—no; not the truth of Christ. Pardon?—no; not pardon through His blood. Heaven?—no; we cannot enter without humility. Be humble, and you shall have most abundant honour; a little while in the valley of humiliation, and then exalted to the throne of Jesus. "He forgetteth not the cry of the humble."

July 11.

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard-seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto you."—*Matt.* xvii. 20.

It has been said that as a single rose upon a bush proves that which bears it to be a rose-tree—although it be a little one and but imperfectly developed—so one spiritual grace proves the reality of a gracious nature from which it springs. Hence, the least faith is saving; the least degree exercised in relation to any promise will bring on the fulfilment of the promise. If it be to remove a mountain, the mountain must move; if the pardon of sin, sin will be pardoned; it depends more on quality than quantity. How should we cry continually, "Lord, increase our faith!"

July 12.

"The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord."—*Isaiah* xxix. 19.

It is a grand thing to be able to rejoice in the Lord, because He is present everywhere, sufficient for all things, filling us with light, and peace, and joy. He who cannot joy in God is poor indeed, having no possessions which can be abiding. He who can rejoice in the Holy One is richer in this than the worldling with his thousands. And who can rejoice most in God? The meek disciple in Jesus. Meekness attracts God; meekness draws God into the soul; meekness prays, beseeches, and increases the joy for ever and ever. Ye meek and timid ones, trampled on by oppression, take comfort from this promise; having God in Christ, you have all things. "Be clothed with humility."

July 13.

"Because I live, ye shall live also."—*John* xiv. 19.

"Yes, live in heaven with me." The time-state Christ called, "a little while"—the grand eternity was ever present to His mighty mind, and to this He pointed the disciples for consolation. There, O my soul, thou shalt live for ever, because thy

Surety lives, graced with His perpetual presence, participating in His pleasures, a partner with Him on His throne, a partaker of the Divine nature, most blessed for evermore. A little while, and all will be peace and purity and joy.

Here, O my soul, thy trust repose :
If Jesus is for ever mine,
Not Death itself, that last of foes,
Shall break a union so divine.

July 14.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."—*Matt.* xxiv. 35.

WONDERFUL language! What a contrast there would appear between the solid universe and the breath of a poor man, as Jesus then was. But He sets more store by His words than the whole material creation—they are more valuable. The truths contained in Christ's words cannot pass away : they have already become part of countless millions of minds ; they are facts, and cannot but be true ; they will live for ever in the memory of heaven, in the memory of hell ; for ever and for ever fulfilling, to the joy of the saved and the misery of the lost. Study them, believe them, lean on them, as more solid than the rock ; they shall support when all else fails. "For ever is Thy word settled in heaven."

July 15.

"He shall bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."—*John* xiv. 26.

ARE you complaining of a defective memory? are you mourning that you cannot retain the precious truths you read or hear? Jesus foreknew this, and therefore gave you this kind promise. It was fulfilled to the writers of the Gospels, hence their marvellous accuracy in recording His immortal words; and it shall be fulfilled in you, if you ask in faith. He is able to strengthen any faculty of the mind; He can impart vigour to any member of the body; He can do all you need to fit you for every duty, to endure every trial, and make you in every way accomplished for the service of God.

July 16.

"And all these things shall be added unto you."—*Matt.* vi. 33.

KIND and considerate and compassionate Redeemer! How well He knew that the pursuit of the earthly hinders that of the heavenly. Absorbed in the temporal, we are in danger of losing the eternal; therefore would He relieve us of all worldly anxiety, that the mind might, with free,

unfettered action and energy, gain the eternal. What hosts of witnesses could He summon to attest the truth of this famous promise! Yes, He is as good as His word: those who seek the honour of God first, shall never want any good thing.

Be still, my heart! these anxious cares
To thee are burdens, thorns, and snares;
They cast dishonour on thy Lord,
And contradict His gracious word.

July 17.

"He shall feed His flock like a shepherd."—*Isaiah* xl. 11.

CAN any doubt His power, or question His will? What an amazing spectacle was that when He drew vast multitudes into a desert, and after feeding their minds with precious truth, supplied their wants by miracle! Are you one of His favoured flock, and doubt as to whether He will sustain you or not? Oh, yield not to unbelief! give not way to sinful fears! Go to Him; plead His promises; and He will not allow you to want any good thing. All the good now in creation was once in Jesus, in Him the power to sustain, and from His fulness you may have all you need. Learn to sing continually, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

July 18.

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." —*Matt.* xxv. 40.

THIS must be so; there is a sublime necessity for it. Christ and His people are one—all equally related to Him and to each other;—therefore what is done to the meanest member is as much done to Christ as what may be done to the mightiest. Thus the Saviour feels now, and He will give expression to these feelings before the assembled universe. Lord, give us grace to see Thee in every one of Thy people, and help us to treat them as we would treat Thee, for all are one in Thee.

July 19.

"I will be with him in trouble."—*Psalm* xci. 15.

IF there be one person in this world with whom Jesus is more present than another, it is the Christian in trouble. Whoever may be absent, O tried believer, He cannot be; whoever may neglect, He cannot, will not. He has said so many times, "I will never, no never, forsake thee."

"Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is passed over from my God?" Impossible! O thou of little faith, wherefore dost thou doubt? Is your head ever absent from your hand? Know you not that you are a "member of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones?" Believe His word, His oath, His blood!

July 20.

"He that soweth to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."—*Gal.* vi. 8.

WHAT a magnificent promise is this! Oh, could we see the results in eternity of our feeble efforts in time, how would it make our hearts leap for joy, animate with zeal in the work of God! Who are sowing to the Spirit? Those who, under the guidance of the Spirit, scatter the words of Jesus, which are spirit and life; whose aim is to glorify God in their work of faith and of love; who breathe spiritual desires, offer spiritual prayers, do spiritual deeds; who live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, die in the Spirit. These shall reap life everlasting, be for ever realising and enjoying the fruit of their labours.

July 21.

"In due season we shall reap, if we faint not."—*Gal.* vi. 9.

THE times and the seasons are in the hand of our best friend, who alone is the Judge, and who determines the periods of sowing and reaping. There is some reaping here: we are often privileged to see the results of our labours; but Jesus and His Apostles refer chiefly to the grand eternity to which we are hastening, and in which alone we can fully reap. Go on, beloved labourers—fear not; faint not; there is nothing more certain than this promise;—toil on in faith and in patience a little while, and a scene will open upon you, which will astonish you with wonder, and fill you with gratitude to all eternity.

July 22.

"My strength is made perfect in weakness."—2 *Cor.* xii. 9.

THAT is, it shall be; and what the Lord said to Paul He says to every one of His people. Oh, the comfort of knowing that it is not power that attracts Jesus so much as weakness; it is not our wealth so much as our poverty; not our fancied

goodness, so much as our acknowledged guilt! He was drawn from heaven to earth, from the throne of glory to the cross of shame, by our weakness; and it is still His glory to make our weakness the means of manifesting His wondrous power. Go then, thou feeble one, and be willing to continue feeble, if by this the Lord's grace shall be magnified.

July 23.

"In the world ye shall have tribulation."—*John* xvi. 33.

"THE Lord, you know, has promised us tribulation," said a good man, cheerfully. Promised, not threatened; promised as one of the needful mercies included in the covenant of grace, without which we could not realise the good or glory of discipline. It is in adversity that many weeds wither, roots strike deeper into the soul, fruits of faith and patience and holiness abound, to the good of the tree, and the honour of the Husbandman. Not till we reach heaven shall we know how much we are indebted to our dear Redeemer for the tribulations of time, by which He has prepared and polished us for the holy temple above. "Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now I have kept thy word."

July 24.

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him."—
2 *Tim.* ii. 12.

It is a great glory we are going to—a magnificent mansion, a splendid entertainment, a wondrous honour for such worms of the earth. It seems, therefore, to be suitable that we should suffer first; not to merit anything, but to make us sufficiently humble to bear the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory promised to us. O Christian soldier! keep this promise full in view on the field of battle. Think what it must be to sit down in triumph on the throne of glory, with your glorious Captain; it will keep you from fainting or falling, and help you to win the day. "Before honour is humility." "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

July 25.

"Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."—
John vi. 54.

Not sacramentally, but spiritually; mental feeding, not bodily. "It is the spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

Millions take the bread and the wine frequently, and for years, but are dead in trespasses and in sins, as their works testify, having the form of godliness without its power. But to all who by faith feed upon the truth as it is in Jesus, receive Him into their souls, live in fellowship with Him, as their righteousness and strength—these have eternal life begun on earth and perfected in heaven.

July 26.

"He that eateth me, even he shall live by me."—*John* vi. 57.

WHAT a craving after union to sinners does this promise imply! How does the loving Saviour seem to desire to be one with us! As the food we eat becomes part of our body, sustains us in life by incorporation, so, by receiving Christ by faith, by love, by sympathy, He becomes one with us, and we one with Him. Who can fathom the marvellous love that led the Holy One to desire such union with sinners! Would you live, live to God, live in happy harmony with Jesus? Then must you attend to this promise. Think, reason, meditate, pray daily and hourly on His Word; live by faith on the slain Lamb, and life eternal is yours.

July 27.

"If the Son, therefore, make you free, ye shall be free indeed."—*John* viii. 36.

LONG before this, speaking by the favoured prophet Isaiah, Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." We see Him here fulfilling His own gracious promise. "*Free indeed.*" In comparison to the liberty Christ gives to His disciples, what is all the freedom for which the nations of the earth contend! Oh, to be free from the awful condemnation of the righteous law, from the tyranny of sin and Satan, from the corruption of the grave and the dominion of death! This is the liberty Jesus gives. Oh, come all, come now, and be made free—free for ever!

July 28.

"He that believeth on me shall never thirst."—*John* vi. 35.

THE Lord Jesus is to sinners the fountain of living waters—the source of all that they can possibly need; for it hath pleased the Father that in Him

shall all fulness dwell. Blessed is that man that, from a deep sense of spiritual need, longs intensely as the thirsty long for drink. Faith brings us to this fountain, opens our eyes to see it, applies the lips to it, drinks of it, fills the soul with it, and so the thirst is quenched. This is a great promise, "Shall never thirst"—that is, shall never be away from the fountain, never need to want, but be always within reach of that eternal supply which is for ever in Jesus.

July 29.

"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."—*Josh.* i. 5.

WITH Jesus dwelling within — trusted, loved, obeyed—the weakest believer is more than a match for all his adversaries. Single-handed and alone, unaided by human strength or sympathy, we may defeat the embattled hosts of the aliens. With one glance of that eye, evil thoughts, envious tongues, fierce temptations, cruel persecutions, Satan and all his forces, shall come to nothing. "When thou goest unto battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them; for the Lord thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

July 30.

"His enemies shall lick the dust."—*Psalm* lxxii. 9.

PICTURE of the most abject submission—total defeat—the brave soldier, struck, pierced, fallen, rolling in agony in the dust. Thus shall it be with the enemies of Jesus; and because our foes are included in the list of His adversaries, we may say to every believer, Thus will it be with your enemies. Yes, Christian! this is what it will come to—thy unbelief, thy pride, thy lust, thy sloth, thy doubts and fears, everything opposed to thee, shall be slain, and thou, a glorious conqueror, triumph in Jesus for ever. Be believing, be faithful, be bold; "for He must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet."

July 31.

"And all things whatsoever ye ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."—*Matt.* xxi. 22.

THE prayer of the sinner should correspond with the promise of the Saviour. We should resolve in His strength to take Him at His word, and take no denial. Faith is essential. Fixing her eye upon the promise, her hand upon His arm—that mighty arm which holds all things—with her

earnest pleading, her strong crying and tears, she sets Him to work who can and will move the whole creation in her behalf. He fights most valiantly and successfully who fights upon his knees. "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel; for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed."

August 1.

"He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."—*John* xiv. 17.

NOTHING short of this indwelling will be sufficient for salvation. We need such a person as the Spirit present every moment, with every power of our mind, or we are helpless and undone. Precious promise! let us plead it until it is fulfilled to the very letter. Which part of our nature does not need this mighty power? The imagination?—who can restrain it, cleanse it? The conscience?—who can convince it, or pacify it when convinced? The heart?—who can soften, subdue, sanctify it, and conform it to the mind of the Holy One? The Spirit, and He alone. He is promised, and is willing to enter every mind open to receive Him, and make it like the Master.

August 2.

"And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth."—*Gen.* xiii. 16.

TRUE nationally of the Jewish people, true spiritually of the believing family, and an example of the law of increase under which all live. What an encouragement to labour in the cause of Christ! We scatter a few seeds of truth in leaflets, tracts, books, or words; they fall into immortal minds, multiply until they may become as the dust of the earth. Of what a numerous spiritual family may we be the parents! "I will make"—we may set this against all the opposition of earth and hell.

When He makes bare His arm,
What shall His work withstand?
When He His people's cause defends,
Who, who shall stay His hand?

August 3.

"My peace I give unto you."—*John* xiv. 27.

THE peace which Christ came to procure by His death and promised Spirit, the peace flowing from pardon and purity. "Here," said a dying Christian, "here is the grave, the wrath of God, the devouring flames, the just punishment of sin, on the one side; and here am I, a poor sinful soul, on the other side:

but this is my comfort—there is an act of oblivion passed in heaven, 'I will remember their sins no more.'" This is the privilege of all in Christ. And no Christian should live contentedly without its enjoyment; for "there is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."

August 4.

"My peace."—*John* xiv. 27.

PEACE such as Jesus possessed as God; divine calmness arising from conscious rectitude, perfect holiness, almighty power, and boundless benevolence. Wonderful and incredible as it may appear, this Jesus promised; to this He has brought vast multitudes, is bringing more, and will bring every one of those given to Him. Would you know what it is, and enjoy its blessedness? Realise, O Christian, thy perfect oneness to Jesus, thy full justification, thy completeness in Him; and as you grow up with Him in all things, you shall have the peace of God, which passeth all understanding.

Peace, that speaks the heavenly Giver,
  Peace to worldly minds unknown;
Peace divine, that lasts for ever,
  Peace that comes from God alone.

August 5.

"Peace I leave with you."—*John* xiv. 27.

JESUS promises to give just what you need, and when you need it. Peace was what His disciples wanted, and peace was promised. They were disturbed, distressed, distracted, because He was bidding them farewell. The loss of a child, or of a husband, or of a wife or parent, is nothing to the loss of Jesus. He had so entwined Himself in their affections, and rooted Himself in their esteem, that for Him to be taken from them was for their all to be taken. They needed peace of mind in the midst of trouble; this He promised to give them—and He is the same still. He suits His sympathy to the seasons of our sorrows.

August 6.

"For I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay or resist."—*Luke* xxi. 15.

WHEN Moses begged to be excused from going before Pharaoh because he was not eloquent, the Lord reproved him sharply. "Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb or deaf, or the seeing or the blind? have not I, the Lord?" And when young Jeremiah said, "Ah! Lord God! behold

I cannot speak; for I am a child," the Lord touched his mouth and said: "Be not afraid of their faces, for I am with thee to deliver thee;" and threatened him that if he were afraid, he would confound him before them. With such facts and promises, we should not yield to fears or fancies, but seek the help that Jesus promises. Believe it, He can and will inspire the most timid with courage. Be not faithless, but believing and prayerful.

August 7.

"He that believeth on Him shall not be confounded."—1 *Peter* ii. 6.

In ourselves there is nothing justifying, nothing that can clear us in the court of justice; but everything that would righteously condemn, and therefore confound. Wicked thoughts, impure desires, unholy passions, evils hateful, abominable, and innumerable — how can we be otherwise than ashamed? In Jesus there is nothing condemnable, but everything that is for our justification and eternal life. If in Him, of what have we to be ashamed? how can we be confounded? "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin? Surely shall one say, In the Lord have I righteousness and strength."

August 11.

"My Spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever." —*Isaiah* lix. 21.

THIS glorious promise is seen fulfilled in multitudes of instances: the Christianity of the parent, through the grace of Jesus, received by the children, and from them to their children, to many generations. Let this assurance stimulate you to seek the salvation of your children, if unsaved; or their growth in grace, if saved. Let this promise be pleaded in faith, and multitudes of the children of believers, who are now outside, shall be brought in; and so, through your agency, the precious Gospel shall be made known to all mankind.

August 12.

"When He shall come to be glorified in His saints."—2 *Thess.* i. 10.

ALL things declare the glory of Christ: the earth beneath, and the heavens above; the universe is filled with the manifestations of His power, and wisdom, and beneficence. Oh, that our eyes were opened to see Him! But He is most glorified in those who are actually everlastingly saved by Him.

"*I am glorified in them.*" He himself acknowledges it; and when He comes with them, all perfected in holiness and happiness, cleansed from all sin by His blood, sanctified by His grace—when their history is known, and all His dealings with them—there will be heard this song from "ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." Will you sing this song?

August 13.

"And to be admired in all them that believe."—2 *Thess.* i. 10.

JESUS will have multitudes of admirers, for John says, "I heard every creature which is in heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever." But we are told that "no man could learn that song—the new song—but those which were redeemed from the earth;" none but believers could say, "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His blood;" therefore of all admirers, these must be filled with the greatest admiration.

August 14.

"So shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."—1 *Thess.* iv. 17, 18.

AND we need comfort: the Paradise of bliss can be reached by sinners only through the valley of tears; it is through much tribulation we enter the kingdom. But the promises shall be our songs in the house of our pilgrimage; we will make the vale of sorrow echo with the praises of the great Promiser. Are you this day mourning in sadness, lamenting the loss of the Saviour's smile, regretting His absence? Be comforted with this assurance; believe that you shall never be separated from Him you love in the mansion of blessedness He has gone to prepare for you.

Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there,
Around my Saviour stand;
And soon my friends in Christ below
Will join the glorious band.

August 15.

"Nevertheless my loving-kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail."—*Psalm* lxxxix. 33.

ARE you in trouble? has Jesus done this? has He taken away your friend, your health, your property? Remember that, if a believer, there is one thing He will not take away; and that one

thing, His own eternal love, will stand as substitute for all beside. Do you ask for proof? "I will not suffer my faithfulness to fail." See that this is a settled conviction in your mind, and remember that you are saved, not by your love to God, but by the love of God to you. "I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

August 16.

"If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."—*John* xiv. 23.

LOVE attracts love. God is love, and is attracted by Christ's love; "for therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life," &c. And He is drawn into our hearts when they are filled with love. What a motive to seek to have our minds cleansed from all that is unkind, unloving, and harsh, and to be under the sovereignty of holy love! And where Jesus comes and manifests Himself, there will the Father unfold Himself; for He said, "I and my Father are one;" and thus our poor sinful souls will become the temples of the Triune Jehovah. May the Promiser Himself give us power to plead this, until we experience its truth and realise its blessedness!

August 17.

"He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations."—*Rev.* ii. 26.

POWER over the ungodly, power over their customs, their sentiments, and their temptations, is what Christ gives, more or less, to all His people. The time will come when the saints shall have the dominion, and when those that afflicted the Church shall come bending to the soles of her feet. Then will this promise be fulfilled. But more perfectly, when the saints seated with Christ at the Judgment shall with Him pass the sentence of condemnation on all who have not obeyed the Gospel. In the meantime, learn that it is Christ's will that His people shall have power and prevail like Himself, who must reign till His enemies are made his footstool.

August 18.

"And I will give him the Morning Star."—*Rev.* ii. 28.

CHRIST calls Himself the Morning Star. So that this is really a promise of Himself. What wondrous love! In what various ways has Jesus given Himself to His people. He gave Himself in cove-

nant with the Father before the world began. He gave Himself to them in the work of teaching when on earth. When He yielded up His life in agony and blood, it was for them; when He called them by His grace, and became formed in their hearts the hope of glory, it was for them; and the promise here is that they shall have Him as a star to guide and illuminate them in the land of peace and joy, when the fight is over, the battle fought and the victory won.

August 19.

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn."—*Isaiah* liv. 17.

"ALL these things are against me"—this was man's fiction. Nothing against thee—is God's fact. The world, flesh, and the Devil, all assail, combine against us, but cannot destroy. Ruffle the temper they may, deprive of property they may, kill the body they may; but they cannot alienate the heart of Jesus, reverse His will, condemn whom He justifies. How delusive to walk by sight! what mistakes we make! How much better to walk in the light of the promises, and plead them daily!

August 20.

"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever."—*John* xiv. 16.

"ANOTHER Comforter." I am one; but I am about to leave you, and you will need another to comfort you amidst all your tribulations. But you are not deserving so great a favour; you have lost all claim even on the mercy of God; therefore, I will pray the Father for you. I will die for you first—shed my blood for you—and then pray that you may have a Comforter that shall abide with you for ever. This promise was fulfilled, is fulfilling; the Church of Christ is the habitation of God, through the Spirit, in consequence. Should the consolations of God be small with such a Comforter?

August 21.

"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory."—*Col.* iii. 4.

CHRIST is our life now—in Him we live, and move, and have our being. As the sun is the source of light, heat, and vitality, so is Jesus the fountain of all the life we have, of body and of mind. But this does not appear—the spring and the streams are not seen together. He is invisible, and it is by faith that we know Him as our life. The promise

of to-day is that He will be unveiled, fully revealed in all His glory; and then we who live in Him, who are pardoned and sanctified by Him, shall appear with Him, all our earthliness and corruption gone; we shall be manifested as His purchase, His property, His bride.

"Tis pleasant to believe Thy grace,
But we had rather see;
We would be absent from the flesh,
And present, Lord, with Thee.

August 22.

"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."—*Matt.* x. 22.

JESUS was no deceiver, no flatterer; He plainly told the whole truth, and bid all who wished to follow Him "count the cost." He allows of no excuse for forsaking Him, not if we had to encounter the opposition of the whole world; for, so far from being a reason for turning from the Saviour, it would surely be the strongest for cleaving all the more closely to Him who is greater and better than all. Are you thinking of giving it up? Think again and again, ere you decide against your own eternal good. Ponder this promise, and remember that heaven will be all the happier and your salvation the more glorious from the difficulty of the way.

August 23.

"Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the angels of God."—*Luke* xii. 8.

How deeply Jesus seems to feel everything done for Him! How sensitive the Head in relation to all the members! But confession then would involve the loss of all things, the loss of life; and therefore he holds out this wondrous inducement to encourage the confessors. What a return! that if we acknowledge Him before this race of sinners, He will publicly own us in the presence of all the holy angels! Do you feel timid? are you shrinking from the profession of discipleship? Think what an honour, and what happiness it will be, to be thus noticed by One who will be the admiration of God and the intelligent universe. Remember, He was not ashamed to hang on the cross for thee!

August 24.

"And they shall never perish."—*John* x. 28.

MARK the reasons Jesus gives; ponder them well, that ye may be built up in this glorious truth. "I know them." If they perished, it would be with Jesus looking at them. Is that likely? "They follow me;" and He declares that He will cast out none who come to Him. Will He allow a sinner following Him to perish? "I give unto them

eternal life." If the life He gives be eternal, how can it perish? If it can perish, it is not eternal, and His word is not true. "My Father is greater than all; and no one is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." He must be stronger than the Triune Jehovah who can destroy the feeblest of His flock.

Jesus, my God, I know His name,
His name is all my trust;
Nor will He put my soul to shame,
Nor let my hope be lost.

August 25.

"And they shall see His face."—*Rev.* xxii. 4.

We cannot see it here. The whole creation is filled with His glory—every blade of grass, every flower, every living creature, bears the impress of His hand. His way is in the sea, and His path in the mighty waters; but his footsteps are not known. He Himself is concealed behind His own wondrous works. We read of Him in His Word; by faith we see Him in providence, and feel Him often in our souls; but we cannot see His face. Precious promise this: that in heaven we shall see eye to eye, face to face—gaze for ever, without being weary in looking on that blessed Saviour, the very thought of whom makes us to rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. But what must it be to be there!

August 26.

"And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."—*Rev.* xxii. 4, 5.

By reflection, by looking at Jesus, they become changed into the same image, from glory to glory; and so His character shall appear as in their foreheads. No imagination can realise, no language describe, the brilliancy of the believer's home; it must be as though millions of mirrors, the sun shining fully on them, were filling this magnificent mansion with a blaze of indescribable glory and brightness. And are we going there? Need we wonder that we are thrown frequently into the furnace to get rid of all dross? need we wonder that Jesus should use all means to purify His people, to prepare them for such bliss, and to qualify them thus to reflect His glory?

August 27.

"He that is holy, let him be holy still."—*Rev.* xxii. 11.

It would seem strange, after all that the holy God has done to make them holy and keep them so in the midst of a sinful world, to allow them to become unholy in the most holy place. But the promise is, that they shall be holy still—that is for ever.

O Christian, does not this cheer thee, to think that thou art going to a condition of unchangeable holiness. God is making thee an eternal excellency —perfect purity. Blessed, thrice blessed Jesus, help us to love Thee and glorify Thee. What a most exhilarating thought, that I shall never more offend, never more have evil thoughts, vain imaginations, unbelieving doubts and fears, impure motives! "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name."

August 28.

"Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her."—*Matt.* xxvi. 13.

THIS is true; this promise is being fulfilled; everywhere is this act of love being told, to her immortal honour. What if this woman shall be conspicuously noticed by this most glorious Saviour at the last day! what if He confesses her then! What an astonishing reward! What power he possesses to bless—that, as the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment, He can fill creation with the influence of one good deed! Believe it; oh, believe it: He can and will make you so useful, so happy, so glorified, that angels will look on, and wonder at such love displayed to such unworthy creatures.

August 29.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."—*Acts* i. 8.

POWER — power in preaching, power in praying, power in living—is felt to be wanted more and more every day. Behold the source of all spiritual strength. This promise is for us, as well as for those to whom it was originally given, although not by the miraculous endowments they possessed. Believe this, and take the comfort of it, that the Holy Ghost can fill you with as much spiritual energy as your body can sustain, so that you shall serve Christ with all the earnestness, and zeal, and untiring diligence you may desire. Plead this promise, and you shall become powerful for right and against wrong.

August 30.

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."—*Rev.* ii. 7.

IN Adam we have our Paradise lost; in Jesus, Paradise regained. By the sin of the first man we have been deprived of the tree of life; by the obedience of our Surety we are entitled to its unfading fruits. Jesus is the real tree of life.

His grace is for the healing of the nations; and planted in the midst of the Paradise of God, He is the life, the health, and the happiness of the redeemed. Fight on, fainting soldier! it will soon be over: die rather than sin; yield thy life sooner than thine honour; and you shall be eternally refreshed with the manifestation of the love of Him who hath called you to the war.

August 31.

"He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."—*John* vii. 38.

We read that "this He spake of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive." According to this, a believer becomes a reservoir of the Spirit's grace, which flows from him as rivers. And this is true. Think what countless spiritual thoughts, desires, resolutions, words, and actions stream from the heart of a pious, loving, active Christian! How true of the Apostles! the blessed influences of the Spirit's work in them are flooding the Church and the world. Do pray for the Spirit; plead, and plead daily and earnestly, that from your happy soul spiritual blessings may flow without number and without end.

September 1.

"The Lord will bless His people with peace."—*Psalm* xxix. 11.

THIS, from the God of peace, is the only sound, rational, and lasting repose. Christ having reconciled us by His sufferings and death, when we are conscious of being one with Him, we may look into the depths of corruption within, and yet have peace; we may look society full in the face, smiling or frowning, and yet have peace; we may even look up to the holy Jehovah, and yet have peace; we may look back on the past, with all its errors—forward to the future, with all its fears—down into the cold grave, and to the awful judgment, and yet have peace.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

September 2.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."—*Rom.* x. 9.

SALVATION is not in the sinner—not in reading, thinking, believing, or repenting—but in Christ. The merit, the virtue, the power by which we are saved, is all in Him. We are saved by a living

union to Him; a living Saviour is the life of our souls. If, therefore, we acknowledge our sins, and Christ's death for them; if we sincerely trust in Him, as raised from the dead for our justification, and confess our faith before God, we shall be saved; "for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

September 3.

"A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time."—*Isaiah* lx. 22.

THE Lord's greatness is magnified by our littleness, His power by our weakness. History abounds with innumerable illustrations of the truth of this famous promise. The Lord Himself was once a little one when a babe in Bethlehem; but what is He now? And as with the Master, so with the disciple. The little ones in His kingdom are strengthened, multiplied, glorified. How much better would it be if, laying hold of this promise, instead of fretting and groaning over the fewness in number, the weakness, the poverty, the defects we meet with everywhere, we prayed, pleaded, and laboured in faith to make the little one a thousand!

September 4.

"How shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"—*Rom.* viii. 32.

He gave us Christ when we were converted, made willing in the day of His power; and in giving Him, He virtually gave us all things. In Jesus, as the seed, were the germs, the elements of all the saved. He carried our heaven in His infinite mind, and prevented our hell by His death. If you have Christ formed within you, you have such a proof of God's love as ought to annihilate all doubts and fears; a pledge that all that remains to be done shall be accomplished, and an encouragement to go boldly to the throne of grace, to obtain the greatest good God can bestow upon you. In giving Jesus, He gives Himself, and the essential good of all things.

September 5.

"I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved."—*Rom.* ix. 25.

Can anything be more marvellous or more encouraging than this? Apart from overwhelming evidence, what could be so incredible as this, that the most holy Jehovah should call a vile sinner

"beloved!" and not only call him so, but treat him accordingly; load him with mercies, admit him into His presence, permit him to plead with Him as a man with his friend, and crown him with immortal glory and honour! Timid, trembling believer, you may not be able this day to realise this, but it is, nevertheless, true. You are greatly beloved of God, if for no other reason than this: you are in Christ, and therefore beloved for His sake.

September 6.

"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."—*Col.* iii. 24.

CERTAINTY is the spirit of this promise—certainty of reward, because it is in the hands of Jesus. To Him is committed the work of rewarding the deeds of this life in the joys or sorrows of the life to come. He has given His word, sealed it with His blood, and by the Spirit poured out upon His people. One promise of Jesus is worth more than a million given by man. Banks may break, securities fail, earthly investments prove unprofitable; but work done for Jesus shall never fail to receive its reward.

He waits to bind a crown,
  Life's last great battle won,
Round every conqueror's brow;
  On! then to victory, on!

September 7.

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord: I will put my laws into their hearts."—*Heb.* x. 16.

WONDER, O heavens, and be astonished, O earth! that the holy Jehovah should make a covenant with a poor, frail, guilty sinner—a covenant of life and salvation! Christ is the explanation; He is all and in all in this transaction. He not only has done His part—atoned for sin by the sacrifice of Himself—but stands engaged to see that our part is done also, by putting the laws of God in our heart and causing us to obey. Of what use would it have been to attempt to bind us to any covenant without this? Do you feel the hardness of your heart and inability to obey? Take this promise, and plead it until you prevail.

September 8.

"And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."—*Heb.* x. 17.

NOT remember them against us as a Judge, not allow them to be brought to the throne of judgment in that awful day when our destiny will be settled for ever. God will act as though He did forget them. He will not punish them; they will be as though they never had been. However

black, however numerous and deserving of the deepest hell, they shall not be mentioned against one sinner who believes in Jesus. And why? Look at that cross! Who hangs there—lacerated, loathed, torn with anguish, despised of men, forsaken of God? "The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, the mighty God," the man Christ Jesus. Could justice require more than the blood of God? Sin thus remembered will be for ever forgotten.

September 9.

"If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."—1 *Cor.* iii. 14.

How careful should we be as to all we do for Christ! How should we examine motive, word, action! If all our works are to be subjected to so rigid a test, all to be tried as gold is tried by the fiery judgment of the last day, it becomes us to mind what material we build with. We may, it would appear, be Christians—we may build on Jesus, the only foundation—and yet put up such materials, do and say such things, as will not endure the test, and so perish, although through abounding grace we ourselves shall be saved. O Jesus, do Thou so fill us with Thy Holy Spirit, that all our works, being by His gracious influence, may abide the test, and we not lose our reward!

September 10.

"Is there anything too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."—*Gen.* xviii. 14.

It is remarkable that some of the most illustrious men were born in barrenness, to show that the excellency of the power is of God and not of man, and that He who is the Saviour of Israel is sufficient for all our need. Isaac, in whose seed all the nations of the world were to be blessed; Samson, the deliverer of Israel; Samuel, the prophet of the Lord; and John the Baptist, the greatest of them, were thus born, to prove that out of death God can bring life, and call "those things which be not as though they were." And so is it in the spiritual: Christ entering the barren soul, can make it as fruitful as the garden of the Lord; Christ pouring out His Spirit on a dead Church, shall make it to abound with blessings and converts to righteousness. (Isaiah xlix. 20, 21; liv. 1—8.)

September 11.

"He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."—*Matt.* x. 39.

It is not possible that anything we give, or do, or lose for Christ, can be lost to us. Jesus is too generous, His memory is too perfect, His love is too great and free, to allow it. But how find it? In the everlasting results of eternity. "Find it?" in our most happy memory; for all we have done

well will come up before us then, and be followed by the fragrance essential to all goodness. "Find it?" in the approval of our own conscience, in the public approbation of our gracious Master, and the commendation of God. Are you living to the Lord? Are you losing your life for His sake? Is it possible that you could better dispose of yourself? When you feel weary, turn to this promise; spend and be spent for Him who shed His blood for you.

September 12.

"As God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them."
—2 *Cor.* vi. 16.

ARE you longing to have God within you—the Triune Jehovah, the most merciful and most mighty—to make your mind a temple to His praise, a garden of delights, a paradise of peace, a holy home of all the charities? Are you sincere in this; willing to turn out all that God hates—the world, the flesh, and the Devil? receive all that He loves—His truth, His Spirit, and His Son? Be encouraged, be believing and prayerful. Depend upon it there is nothing more certain, than this: that to dwell with us is His purpose in Christ, the end of His coming into the world, of the work of the Holy Spirit, the discipline of life, and all the countless mercies which stream from His loving liberal hand.

September 13.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom."—*Luke* vi. 38.

NOT perhaps the same men; the persons you help may not be able to make any return, and others may be unwilling, but recompense shall come from some of your fellow men. A minister of our acquaintance took under his kind care the widow and fatherless children of a missionary. Soon after he died, leaving also a widow and children. The Christians in the neighbourhood instantly did the same for them, proving the truth of our Lord's promise. Give liberally; act generously, as in the sight of the Lord. He will see to it that you lose nothing.

September 14.

"And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."—2 *Cor.* vi. 18.

WHAT a mercy, when driven by the world's wickedness into the arms of our Father and our God! when trials, troubles, and tribulations bring us face to face in fellowship with the Fountain of all good! "I will be a Father unto you"—that is, treat you as a father, provide for all your wants,

educate you, train you for my service on earth, and fit you for my glory hereafter. Wilt thou not from this time say, "Father, be thou my guide, my glory, and my God?"

Stripped of mine earthly friends,
I find them all in one:
And peace and joy that never ends,
And heaven, in Christ, begun.

September 15.

"He shall testify of me."—*John* xv. 26.

How precious is this promise to those who are longing to see Jesus, to comprehend His love, to feel subdued by His grace, to be all that He would have them to be! Can anything be more encouraging than that an infinite Teacher is promised to illumine our dark minds about Jesus and salvation? that He who inspired patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, is engaged to assist us in understanding what they wrote of Him? Be greatly encouraged, all ye that are thirsting to know Him who is the true God and eternal life; plead this promise, and persevere in pleading, and even in this world you shall see that in Christ which will thrill you with the joy which is unspeakable and full of glory.

September 16.

"And therefore will the Lord wait, that He may be gracious unto you, and therefore will He be exalted, that He may have mercy upon you."—*Isaiah* xxx. 18.

WHY these delays? "Why is His chariot so long in coming?" Where is the fulfilment of His promises? This Scripture furnishes an answer. He waits that He may be gracious, that He may bestow a larger blessing, and that you may be better prepared to receive it when it does come, as Joseph, by the discipline of the prison, was more fitted for the dignity of the throne. "He will be exalted to have mercy"—fulfilled in Him whom God hath exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour for to give repentance and forgiveness, and in all who are saved by Him.

September 17.

"Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace."—*Isaiah* xxvii. 5.

CHRIST is God's power and man's peace. By Him the eternal Father made all, upholds all, and saves all who believe. This is God's challenge to all who wish for peace and friendship with Him. Believing prayer, in the name of Christ, is taking

hold of a power which will draw the sinner and the loving Jehovah together—draw into our souls all the infinite blessings of His grace—prevail over all our enemies, and make us more than conquerors. Oh, for power to plead! Oh, to feel the magnetism of this mercy—the privilege of prevailing prayer!

September 18.

"If any man serve me, him will my Father honour."—*John* xii. 26.

THE Father loves the Son, loves Him as Himself, loves Him beyond all creation, and is determined that He shall be honoured and glorified above all. Therefore does He hold out the most splendid inducements to all to lead us to serve Him—"Him will my Father honour." Perhaps in this world, with His presence in the soul, the comfort of the Holy Ghost, or with marked success in His cause. But if not so much here, certainly in eternity, before all worlds, will he acknowledge every act of love and service rendered to Jesus. Art thou working for Christ, and yet despised? Faint not, fear not; the day is not far distant when thou shalt have as much glory as an immortal nature can bear

September 19.

"I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day."—*Isaiah* xxvii. 3.

Our Lord illustrated this in the beautiful parable of the Vine, in which He says, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." As the vine-dresser would carefully go over the vine, examining every branch, removing the dead and pruning the living, that the tree may be uninjured and healthy, so does the heavenly Husbandman constantly watch over all the members of His Church for their good and His glory. Art thou a living branch? thou art carefully tended and graciously kept.

September 20.

"And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."—*Isaiah* xxv. 9.

As the patriarch Jacob exclaimed, "I have waited for thy salvation, O Lord;" as aged Simeon, with the infant Jesus in his arms, said, "Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace according

to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation;" so will every believer exult in the full realization of the magnificent mercy about to be revealed. Wait on, thou weary one; a little while, and a scene shall burst on thy view, the very sight of which will make thee forget thy weariness, and make thee joyful and triumphant for ever.

September 21.

"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."—*Psalm* lxxxix. 34.

LET this be an antidote against the world's infidelity and our own unbelief. There is nothing which God, the God of truth, resents more than doubt, suspicion, and distrust of His Holy Word; and there is nothing more harmful to our souls, destructive to our happiness, to our honour, and to our usefulness. He who cannot lie says: "If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant." The Lord Jesus is that covenant—the sum, the substance, and the seal of it; so that it will be time for the infidel to boast against the Gospel when he has changed the course of nature, stopped the tides,

or darkened the sun. God's word will outlive him and all his empty boasting.

September 22.

"But he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."—1 *Cor.* iii. 15.

THE spiritual wants of poor fallen man need this assurance; the condition of many a desponding child of God needs it; and therefore a loving Father, a tender Saviour, caused it to be written in the bright roll of promise. In some instances it is imaginary: a depressed state of the nerves, lowness of spirits, with Satan's cruel temptings, has led many a faithful labourer to see nothing but causes of condemnation, and to fear destruction as his certain doom. He needs this promise. In other cases, it is not imaginary but real: there is the inconsistent Christian, who has built on the foundation, but whose works are worthless; and there is the unconverted man, awakened at last to see that his life has been one of sin, sin, nothing but sin! These need this only hope. To all, the language of the Bible is, "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."

September 23.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee."—*Isaiah* xxvi. 3.

"PERFECT peace," many exclaim, "quite impossible! With the elements of disturbance within, confusion and strife all around, who can have perfect peace?" Let God Himself answer: "Is the Lord's hand waxed short? Thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass or not." Cannot He who calmed the winds, who preserves the peace of the heavens, who controls the mightiest minds—can He not keep your little soul in peace? Mark the words, "Thou wilt keep;" and the condition of the promise, "whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee." Look to the Lord to do all, to give thee faith, to enable thee to rest on Him, and peace and tranquillity shall be yours in life, in death, at the awful Judgment, and for ever.

September 24.

"When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee."—*Proverbs* vi. 22.

A GUIDE, a defender, and a companion—such is the Bible, with its precepts and promises, its warnings and encouragements. He whose delight is in

the law of the Lord, and who meditates on it day and night, shall never want a leader to direct him, a protector to preserve him, or a friend to converse with. Jesus, of whom the Book speaks, for whom it was written, and who is Himself the Word of God, the way of God, the truth of God, is all this—the Captain leading many sons to glory, the Conqueror defending all who trust Him, and the Companion of those whom He is not ashamed to call brethren. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly and in all wisdom." "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me."

September 25.

"I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it."—*Psalm* lxxxi. 10.

MARK the preface to this promise, "I am the Lord, which brought thee," &c. As much as to say, "After that wondrous miracle of power and grace, can you doubt either my willingness or my ability to bless you?" And does not Jesus say to every believer whom He has converted, pardoned, and sanctified, "I am the Lord, which bought thee with my blood, endured the rage of devils and the wrath of God for thee; gave thee the Holy Spirit, and made thee an heir of glory. Canst

thou doubt either my love, or my power to save even to the uttermost? Come, then, open thy mouth wide: for the perishing world, for thy country, for my people, for thy family, for thyself; be not afraid, but come boldly. Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

September 26.

"Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God."—*Psalm* xcii. 13.

As the wind passing over a fragrant field carries the fragrance to our sense, so the Spirit of God, blowing over the garden of the Lord, conveys the savour of it into our souls. He is well circumstanced for growth in holiness and happiness who is united to a Church where the spiritual atmosphere is impregnated with the truth, the Spirit, and the love of Jesus; where the ground is thickly sown with the seeds of the glorious Gospel of Christ; where the labourers, co-working with God, praying in the Holy Ghost, are toiling on in the temper of Christ: in such a garden "he shall flourish like the palm-tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon." Oh, that every Church could say with Moses, "We are journeying to the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good; for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel."

September 27.

"And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"—*John* xi. 26.

It is surely high time we did believe this; the "hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie promised before the world began," and which for nearly 6,000 years He has been most marvellously fulfilling. A Saviour was promised, and a Saviour came; the Spirit was promised, and He came. Multitudes were to believe, and multitudes have believed; they live, they shall never die, for they are before the throne, serving day and night. "Believest thou this?" Thine eternal weal or woe hangs on this; thy present comfort, peace, and holiness hang on this. Believing this, thou art at once justified, adopted, sanctified, saved; refusing to believe this, all thy sins may be charged home upon thee—God angered, thy soul lost; "for there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation."

September 28.

"And it shall obey you."—*Luke* xvii. 6.

No being that has come into our world has made such amazing promises as Jesus; so unlikely, so

incredible, so utterly impossible, except to Omnipotence. But vast and wondrous as they were, they were literally fulfilled, and the honoured disciples came to Him, exclaiming, "Lord, even the devils are subject to us through thy name." And if you trust Him firmly, please Him greatly, seek His help earnestly and believingly, you shall be also astonished; it shall be as though the evils of your heart obeyed you, the doubts and difficulties shall vanish, the rugged path be made smooth, the crooked made straight, the rough places plain, and you enabled to march on your heavenly way as more than conqueror, through Him that hath loved you.

September 29.

"And there shall be no more death."—*Rev.* xxi. 4.

You are bereaved; the desire of your eyes is taken away with a stroke. You are lamenting your loss; you cannot see how it can be made up. But there is comfort for you even now; for the departed is beyond the reach of the King of terrors, is beholding the Lord in His beauty in the land which is afar off. Here the sentence of death is on all things—on the fields and forests, on the earth and all it contains, on the heavens, which will vanish

away as a dream, and on the people for whom they all subsist; in the midst of life we are in death. But death has no footing in heaven; the happy immortals shall never taste his bitterness, never feel his icy touch; on their minds and on their bodies, on their opinions and on their feelings, their pleasures and employments, it is written, "For ever; for they shall die no more."

September 30.

"And in their minds will I write them."—*Heb.* x. 16.

"GIVE what Thou commandest," said Augustine, "then command what Thou wilt." This is a very precious promise to those who, from painful experience, feel their own utter helplessness and misery. The good Spirit alone can so soften and subdue the soul as to prepare it for the impressions of Divine truth, as the melted wax takes the seal. "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistles of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart." Written by the finger of the eternal on the imperishable mind, they will never be erased; engraved on the memory, shall never be forgotten; enthroned in the heart, obedience shall bring pleasure and praise.

October 1.

"Not as the world giveth, give I unto you."—*John* xiv. 27.

THE world professes to give peace, has its prescriptions, provides its pleasures, its antidotes against care and sorrow; but it is all delusion. Worldly peace arises from ignorance and error, is transient, and soon passes away. Let in the light, show the sinner himself, his sins, and his doom, and his peace is gone; for there is no peace to the wicked. The peace of Jesus is lasting, everlasting, because based on truth; it can bear the light; it is peace with God, peace from God, peace in God, through the precious blood of Jesus, and will endure for ever.

Peace, the earnest of salvation,
Peace, the fruit of pardoned sin.

October 2.

"He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when He shall hear it He will answer thee."—*Isaiah* xxx. 19.

SURELY Zion never said a more foolish thing than that her way was hid from the Lord, and her judgment passed over from her God. Can anyone believe that He is inattentive to any cry of distress? Does the cry of the raven attract, and not the cry of man? Does He bend His ear to

listen to the tale of temporal trouble, and shall He not regard the soul sinking into hell and crying for help? Did He come forth at the call of the oppressed in Egypt, and will He not come to the rescue of those sighing for salvation? Did He come, and bleed, and die, to save: and will He not hear the prayer of the penitent? He will! He will! Millions of saved souls are ready to attest the truth of this promise, and you shall add to their number if you persevere.

October 3.

"He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler."
—*Psalm* xci. 3.

Satan, the fowler, who betrays
Unguarded souls a thousand ways.

He is as full of sin as the sea is of salt. It is the element in which he exists, the weapon with which he fights, the end for which he lives. Believe it, on the testimony of Him who cannot lie, that his aim is to ensnare you, to get you in his infernal grasp, to drag you down to the dungeon of despair. Rise, then; rise up against him in all the might of Jesus; pray, plead this promise, and you shall sing with the Psalmist, "Our soul is escaped as the bird out of the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we are escaped." Oh, who can bear the thought of being in the power of this fearful fiend?

October 4.

"Fear not: from henceforth thou shalt catch men."—*Luke* v. 10.

PENTECOST proves this promise true—"The same day there were added to them about three thousand souls." And who can tell how many men Peter caught after this? "Fear not," fellow-labourers! "Fear not," young minister, timid and nervous, overwhelmed with the depravity of men, the opposition of men; their darkness, deadness, and unwillingness to come into your net. Your Master says, "Thou shalt catch men." "Fear not," little lamb, longing to save souls. "Fear not," Sabbath-school teacher, panting and praying for success; Jesus, who has all hearts in His hand, all providence, all spiritual saving power, He engages to help and bless. Learn to look off from the sea, the boat, the net, and the throwing, to Jesus, "and thou shalt catch men."

October 5.

"Having these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."—2 *Cor.* vii. 1.

APART from these promises, to what a dire dilemma are we brought! We must become holy. Holiness or misery—there is no other alternative! But we

cannot make ourselves so. How can we?—as well try to extract all the salt from the sea, as sin from our souls. Self-salvation is as wild a notion as ever entered the human brain. But these promises are our hope, our grand encouragement; and our holiness their merciful end. Pleading them daily, with watchfulness and prayer, by degrees we may cleanse ourselves from sin, become conquerors over our corruptions, and reign with Christ in the kingdom above.

October 6.

"He shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions."—*Mark.* x. 30.

LEAVE it to the Lord to fulfil His own promise in His own way. He does sometimes wonderfully enrich the generous disciple—reward him with abundance of earthly comforts, illustrating the proverb, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth." But not always: thus, frequently He gives what is better than lands or friends—the light of His countenance, the joys of His salvation, all the spiritual blessings of His love. "With persecutions;" and these are blessings also, necessary to keep us from being exalted above measure, to remind us where we are, to lead us to Himself, and long for eternal life.

October 7.

"They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house."—*Psalm* xxxvi. 8.

THIS promise shall be most fulfilled when Christ occupies His proper place in the sanctuary. He is the very marrow and fatness of God's house, and when in the praises we sing, in the prayers we present, in the preaching of the Word, and in all the arrangements of worship, Christ has the pre-eminence, souls are abundantly satisfied and God greatly glorified. Christ's mercies are more numerous than man's miseries. Let those who complain of their leanness see to it that the fault be not in themselves, and seek the Lord more earnestly, that they may be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of His house.

October 8.

"And I will receive you."—2 *Cor.* vi. 17.

THAT is, if you come out from the unholy, separate yourselves from the unclean, leaving sin and self and Satan, and cleaving to Christ, and Christ alone. It is a promise for the persecuted: for the child cast off by ungodly parents; the young man or young woman oppressed by their fellows; the

teacher of truth, hated for his faithfulness: it is for vast numbers who are in this day persecuted as really and as bitterly as in the days of fire and faggot, of fury and death. Say, is it not even better to be cast off by the whole creation, if received into the loving embrace of our gracious Father in heaven? The loss of the whole world would be gain, if by it we have Him as our portion for ever.

October 9.

"Thrice in the year shall all your men children appear before the Lord God, the God of Israel. Neither shall any man desire thy land, when thou shalt go up to appear before the Lord thy God."—*Exod.* xxxiv. 23-24.

THE Lord reigns over the wicked as well as the good. He has a perfect power over the will of every human being in this world—in all worlds; and therefore He could engage to take care of the property of His servants when leaving their homes to serve Him. Hast thou an enemy hating thee, a friend unwilling to help thee, a child disobedient, or a heart within thee opposed to God? Let this be thy encouragement: that the Lord Jesus, having all power in heaven and earth, can turn them whithersoever He will, as the rivers into the sea.

October 10.

"I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy poor with bread."—*Psalm* cxxxii. 15.

WOULD that this promise were pleaded most earnestly by pastor and people every time the sanctuary is opened! Our heavenly Father has made an abundant provision for our spiritual wants in Christ, the Bread of Life, in His word of grace and truth; but we need the blessing promised, or the table is spread in vain. See that you restrain not prayer before God: come in a praying spirit, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and you shall never be sent empty away. "So then, neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase;" and the increase shall be abundant.

October 11.

"Thou shalt tread upon their high places." — *Deut.* xxxiii. 29.

THIS is often illustrated in the spiritual warfare, in the victory we are, by the grace of Jesus, enabled to win over the powers of darkness. I find that, if permitted, Satan will turn my mind into a very hell of sin and misery; he would make all like

himself. But by hard fighting, holy watching, incessant pleading, we can tread on these spiritual wickednesses in high places, and gain glory to God and comfort to ourselves. "Thou shalt"—whoever thou art, young or old, feeble or strong, who art willing to accept the mercy offered, to put on the whole armour of God, and fight manfully under the banner of the Captain of our Salvation.

What though the hosts of hell engage,
With mingled cruelty and rage;
A faithful God restrains their hands,
And chains them down in iron bands.

October 12.

"I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death."—*Hosea* xiii. 14.

How easily were we destroyed; with what wondrous power are we saved! A poor frail creature ruined us; but it required all the energies of the Godhead to raise us. As in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive. A child may pull a beautiful butterfly to pieces—a God only could put it together again. A very trifling cause may bring our body to the grave—nothing short of the glorious power of Jehovah can redeem us from it, transform us, and make us like Him who is the altogether lovely.

October 13.

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing."—*Isaiah* xxxv. 5, 6.

SUPPOSE you had a child, a lovely and beautiful babe, but blind, deaf, lame, and dumb; how many tears would you shed over it! But if a miracle were performed, and the little one should open its eyes and look at you, hear your voice, begin to prattle and walk, what would be your feelings and your gratitude! Are you converted? A greater miracle has been wrought on your mind than this: and what Jesus has done for you, in answer to your prayer, He will do for your children, for your friends, for multitudes. "Pray without ceasing."

October 14.

"Go and proclaim these words, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you; for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever."—*Jer.* iii. 12.

DEEPLY do we need this promise; it is most humbling to think how we wander from the God we love. We have more sin in our soul than Adam when he ruined a world; we have enough to

pollute and destroy many worlds. What comfort could we have, what hope for the future, apart from the promises in Christ? Return, thou poor, trembling backslider; and as Jesus looked on Peter, melted him, pardoned him, and restored him, so will He receive, forgive and cleanse, and keep thee clean.

October 15.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee."—*Isaiah* xliii. 2.

In a very severe gale of wind, the other day, two men were washed overboard with one wave, and washed on deck again by the returning wave. He who when on earth could calm the raging winds, quiet the angry billows, and preserve His chosen amidst the storm, He is with us always to direct, to overrule, to save; and if He allows one trouble to throw us into the deep, He can make another lift us out of it.

The soul by faith reclined
On the Redeemer's breast,
'Mid raging storms exults to find
An everlasting rest.

October 16.

"For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."—*Acts* ix. 16.

THIS was a promise not a threatening; for honour not for shame, and so Paul regarded it. "For unto you (he said) it is given, in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake; having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me." And shall we shrink from suffering for Him who was scourged, and spit upon, and nailed, and speared, and crucified for us? But for His love in suffering, we must have had the execration of the holy universe, the torment of conscience, the society of fiends, the displeasure of God; but now is promised and provided glory, honour, eternal life.

October 17.

"I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh."—*Ezek.* xi. 19.

GLORIOUS promise this! not modify or mend the old nature, but create a new one; not soften the stone, but take it away, and give the heart of flesh, the sensitive, tender, loving, holy heart. Are you

awakened to see your condition, to feel that you have a stone within, that you need a new nature? This promise is for you; take it, believe it, plead it; and He will give you the new heart, will give you hourly grace to subdue the old; and after fighting with sin for a time, He will destroy it utterly and for ever.

October 18.

"Much more, then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."—*Rom.* v. 9.

"THERE is," says Gurnell, "greater power and mercy displayed in conversion than in giving glory; there is more difference between grace and no grace, than between little and more grace; more difference between chaos and nothing than between chaos and a well-ordered universe. When a prince marries a poor virgin, it is more than clothing her as a princess." Before grace, God was free to choose; but after He has chosen, He has bound Himself to preserve, to save, and to glorify. (Jer. iii. 14; Isaiah lxii. 5; Rom. vii. 4; Rev. xxi. 2, 9.)

October 19.

"He is faithful that promised."—*Heb.* x. 23.

"MERCHANTS keep a book of debtor and creditor, write down what is owing to them and by them,

and then cast up the whole. God, for Christ's sake, blots out what we owe Him, and writes down what He owes us by promise." The past should be a proof and pledge for the future. He has fulfilled the largest promises, and will not fail in the less. The payment of our debt on Calvary in the awful agony of Jesus, His resurrection unto glory, and the outpouring of the Spirit, should be sufficient to annihilate doubt, and make us lean on the faithful Promiser.

October 20.

"Lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee."—*Acts* xxvii. 24.

THE salvation of all on board this vessel may be aptly used to set forth the final safety of all in the Church of Christ. The Captain brings the people committed to Him by very strange ways; makes them to sail on the sea of life in very frail vessels, that the excellency of the power may be seen to be of God and not of ourselves. "He often breaks in pieces the ship we would sail in, and casts out such planks as we did not think of; but one way or another, by smooth sailing and by stormy, all shall escape safe to land."

Then let the wildest storms arise,
Let tempests mingle earth and skies,
No fatal shipwreck shall I fear;
But all my treasures with me bear.

October 21.

"They shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God."—*Isaiah* xxxv. 2.

BELIEVING is seeing. We see the glory of the Lord when we believe; we behold with rapture the excellency of our God as it shines in the face of Jesus, when we believe in the record concerning Him. Faith, it has been said, is to the Scripture what the sun is to the face of nature. Take a stranger through a beautiful country at night, he sees nothing to admire; but let the sun arise, and all the glories are revealed. Just so an unbeliever reading the Scriptures: he sees nothing to admire; but let faith be given, and instantly wonder after wonder is disclosed. Believe, and you shall be taken out of darkness into marvellous light, and be every day astonished at the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.

October 22.

"For sin shall not have dominion over you."—*Rom.* vi. 14.

OUR corruptions, it has been said, are like the frogs of Egypt—they come everywhere; there is no place free from them—they enter every apartment of the house, even the most secret and most sacred,

the conscience itself being defiled by them. But corruptions are not to be conquerors, any more than the frogs; and as these "died out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields," so, through the abounding grace of Jesus, every principle and particle of sin shall die in our souls.

What, though thine inward lusts rebel,
'Tis but a struggling gasp for life;
The weapons of victorious grace
Shall slay thy sins and end the strife.

October 23.

"If it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."—*John* xii. 24.

THE farmer turning up the ground throws up seeds long buried; exposed to the warmth of the sun, they germinate, grow, and become fruitful plants. So in the upturnings of life, frequently the seeds of truth, impressions, convictions, buried for years under the rubbish of sin and folly, by the genial rays of the Sun of Righteousness, and the fostering influence of the Holy Spirit, spring up, and become trees of righteousness. Are you discouraged in not seeing the fruit of your labours? Believe the promise implied in these words; go on sowing in hope; and you shall see one day a glorious harvest to reward your toil. Dying to self and living to Christ is the high road to the greatest success.

October 24.

"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."—*Isaiah* lxv. 24.

THE Bible abounds with this proof of the Lord's willingness to hear and help the prayerful. Jacob, whilst wrestling with Jesus, received his answer and his honour. Elijah, invoking the great God on mount Carmel, received his answer by the fire which fell and consumed the sacrifice. Daniel, whilst praying, was visited by Gabriel, and told of God's love to him. And it was when the Apostles were assembled together praying, that the place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and spake the word with boldness. What would have become of the thief on the cross, if he had not been heard whilst praying? Truly He is a God at hand, and not afar off!

October 25.

"But if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."—*Rom.* viii. 13.

ALL through the Spirit; for as the body without the soul cannot move or live, so the mind without the Holy One is spiritually dead. Grace does not create grace; faith, hope, and charity are a Divine

sisterhood, but not related as parent and child; each is separately the work of the Spirit. The hand and foot work together, but the hand did not create the foot; so faith works by love, but does not create it. Most important promise is this, and must be very earnestly pleaded, if we would live in fellowship with God through Christ; for who can suppress, who can crucify, who can so deaden his corrupt thoughts, and desires, and habits, as to commune with the holy, the heavenly, the Divine?

October 26.

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day."—2 *Tim.* iv. 8.

How wonderful is it that we are encouraged to look forward, not only to salvation, but to a magnificent reward! It is "as though a prince, out of great generosity, should reward a captain by the advancement of the whole army, when it was the captain's courage alone that secured the victory." Thus Paul felt when he said: "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain: but I laboured more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

October 27.

"This man shall be blessed in his deed."—*James* i. 25.

THE man who looketh into the perfect law of liberty, as in a glass to dress himself by; who not being forgetful, but a doer of the work—he shall be blessed in his deed. It is recorded of a distinguished painter, that when a little boy, after viewing the painting of a great master with rapture, he cried out, "I too am a painter!" His enthusiasm was kindled, ambition fired, perseverance followed; and he became as eminent as the man whose genius first inspired him. And should not the spiritual excellence of a Moses, an Elijah, a John, a Paul, seen in this glass—and far above all, the perfect example of Jesus—kindle greater ardour in our souls?

October 28.

"And so all Israel shall be saved."—*Rom.* xi. 26.

IT has been quaintly remarked that "in whatever dunghill God's jewels are hid, Divine grace will both find them out and fetch them out." How encouraging is this promise to all those who are labouring amongst the degraded outcasts of society. Deeply imbedded in the lowest depths of corruption and misery, lost to all sense of right, of

decency, and of truth, these spiritual and immortal natures shall, touched by the gracious hand of the Redeemer, rise to newness of life here, and outshine the sun in splendour hereafter.

October 29.

"Knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you." —2 *Cor.* iv. 14.

UNION how intimate! likeness how exact, in all the family of God! Who can imagine the scene of glory opened up by this one promise? Jesus will say of all His redeemed people, "Here am I, and the children thou hast given me." (Heb. ii. 13.) Paul laboured that he might present every man perfect in Christ. Pastors with their flocks, teachers with their scholars, parents with their children, will be in this marvellous presentation. Oh, the bliss of that day! The Lord grant us the privilege of being presented by Jesus, and presenting many through Him.

October 30.

"And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the day time from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and rain."—*Isaiah* iv. 6.

JESUS is all this to all who confide in Him. A sinner out of Christ is the most exposed of all

creatures. Were his eyes opened, he would be appalled to see himself surrounded, imprisoned, filled with the elements of danger and destruction. A sinner in Christ, a believer at the feet of Jesus, is as safe as an angel in heaven. Is the storm of life raging around you? are the elements in wild confusion threatening to destroy you—cares, temptations, perplexities, sins, snares, and sorrows? Hasten to the refuge, lay hold of this promise, and you shall find "a covert from the storm and the rain."

October 31.

"And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."—*Matt.* xix. 29.

WERE we possessed of the whole world, or of ten thousand worlds, if we know Jesus, love Him as we ought, and fully believe His word, we shall be willing to part with all for His sake. How easily can He who made all, and upholds all, who has won a right to all, and has redeemed us by His blood, how easily can He make up to us for the loss of all. We may feel humbled that we should need such promises, but He knoweth our frame. Let me be willing, O Jesus, to serve Thee for Thine own sake, finding in Thee, and in Thy society and service, my heaven, my all!

November 1.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you."—*John* xvi. 23.

THE path of prayer is always open to us, when all others are closed, and we are hemmed in, and our way hedged with thorns; that which leads to the throne of grace is before us, for our comfort. Christ having come from the Father, knowing His mind, could make this solemn assurance in His name. We may now say to every sincere seeker, "Thou hast the ear of the great God. It is always open; never weary of listening to thy requests, by night or by day, in youth, in manhood, in old age, and on the bed of death. And thou hast a friend at Court, a loving, tender, compassionate Saviour, who will endorse your petitions, and presenting them, secure answers of peace."

And wilt thou in dead silence lie,
When Christ stands waiting for thy prayer?
My soul, thou hast a friend on high;
Arise! and try thy interest there.

November 2.

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will not I forget thee."—*Isaiah* xlix. 15.

TRUE, you may feel this day as though you were forgotten; friends forsake, foes are strong, prayers

not answered; desolate and depressed, you know not which way to look for help. But there is one who cannot forget you, who is thinking of you with infinite and tender affection at this moment, who has planned your rescue, and will soon come forth to save. Look at Calvary, and ask, Can He who wept for me, prayed for me, and died for me, forget me? Impossible. "Behold," He says, "I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands, those hands since pierced for thee. How can I forget thee? Be not faithless, but believing."

November 3.

"I will work, and who shall let it?"—*Isaiah* xliii. 13.

In the "I will," of the Almighty, there is the pledge of the triumph of every effort which He condescends to bless. There is more comfort in this than in the combined energy of the whole creation. All the opposition of men or demons is but as a feather against a whirlwind, an atom against an army. Jesus said "I will, be thou clean;" and immediately the leprosy was cleansed. How to secure this Almighty energy on our side, how to bring the Redeemer to our help, is the question of questions; for having Him, we have more than millions of mankind. Is this the cause of God in which I am engaged? Then let me go

on boldly, fearless of foes, confident in results, for He will work and none shall hinder.

November 4.

"To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."—*Isaiah* lxvi. 2.

WHICH temple is most attractive to God, that built of marble or of gold, adorned with precious stones; or that which is the workmanship of the Holy Ghost—the spiritual temple, for which all others are but the means? If in any building there should be one solitary soul, broken-hearted, contrite, trembling, because of having offended God, seeking pardon through the blood of Jesus, there would be the magnet of Deity, the attraction of angels, the presence and grace of the Holy Spirit. "I will look even to him, to cheer, to comfort, to bless; for the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."

November 5.

"Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves."—*Ezek.* xxxvii. 12.

THIS promise is for the desponding; and, although predicting a political resurrection, may be applied

to the revival of spiritual life in any Church or family where it is at a low ebb. How often have Christians declined, and have been revived! How often has a congregation been like unto a cemetery, fair and flourishing in appearance, but beneath full of death and corruption; until He, who is the Resurrection and the Life, has breathed upon them the Holy Ghost, and they have come forth to newness of life. Never despair whilst He lives; never faint with such promises; but pray and plead, until multitudes of dead sinners are seen starting from their graves and living to His glory.

November 6.

"Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away."—2 *Cor.* iii. 16.

THIS is a prediction for the Jew, unfolding a glorious future—the Lord hasten it in His own time! It may stand also as a promise to all who have vails preventing them from seeing the most magnificent of all sights—the most lovely of all beings. What so simple as turning to the Sun to be enlightened! O ye, who are wandering away from Jesus, running hither and thither, reading, hearing, conversing, and getting your mind darkened and your soul sadly hurt, turn to the Lord from all these vanities, errors, shadows, and shams, and you shall see Him who will enlighten, sanctify, and save.

November 7.

"My peace I give unto you."—*John* xiv. 27.

No peace from God, no righteous peace, but through Christ. There is an essential connexion between crime and punishment, between sin and sorrow, as the experience of every day testifies. When Adam sinned, he made it an infinite and eternal impossibility for his posterity to get holy peace, except through Jesus. I look into Christ, and see all my sins washed away, the power to subdue them there, the arm which will annihilate them there, and so have peace. He who is the Lord our righteousness is also called our peace.

November 8.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up."—*James* iv. 10.

You are down to-day in your circumstances, in your spirits, in your expectations; look, then, at this promise; is it not for you? There is no place like the valley of humility for seeing Jesus, who makes these promises. He may lift you up out of these temporal troubles, for His hand is underneath you in them. He may lift you up by strengthening

you with all might in the inner man, so that a load of care shall be light as a feather; and he will most certainly lift you far above all trial in a little while, to a throne of unimaginable dignity and glory, in the world to come. The valley of humiliation lies in the path to Paradise, and the Lord loves to meet His people in it.

November 9.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins."—1 *John* i. 9.

"FAITHFUL and just" to Jesus, who died with the understanding that every believing penitent should be pardoned because He died. What, then, so sure as forgiveness? "Faithful and just" to His own word, His own covenant, to His oath, by which He stands eternally pledged to pardon the penitent. What so certain, then, as pardon? "Faithful and just" to the poor, trembling, sin-smitten, sin-burdened, believing sinner, drawn to the Cross, confessing, praying, and pleading; was it ever known, can it ever happen, that the ever-blessed, loving God should cast away one such? Impossible.

Engraved, as in eternal brass,
  The mighty promise shines;
Nor can the powers of darkness raze
  Those everlasting lines.

November 10.

"And to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."—1 *John* i. 9.

SAID a poor dying soldier, whose wounds were so offensive as to be scarcely bearable to those waiting on him: "When are we too loathsome for a mother's love, a mother's hope, a mother's prayer?" True; what affectionate parent will refuse to nurse the sick child? But what is a mother's love compared to God's love? What but a drop to the ocean! Did Jesus refuse to touch the loathsome leper? Did He not with a word make him clean? Believe it; however vile, filthy, abominable you may be, if you confess it, He is faithful and just to cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

November 11.

"But then face to face."—1 *Cor.* xiii. 12.

MARVELLOUS mercy! Magnificent promise! What a prospect is here opened to us! Compared with the illumination of heaven, all the inspiration, the knowledge, the gifts even of Paul, were but as the attainments of childhood as contrasted with the superior knowledge of the man. Very solemn,

however, is this prospect—"face to face" with angels, with God! Are you this day prepared for this? It will happen to many, why not to you? But to be prepared for this, to have a spirit inhabited by the Holy Ghost, refined from the dross of sin, face to face with Jesus—what so glorious! Do thus get prepared to meet thy God; do not delay a moment.

November 12.

"Who through faith obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions."—*Heb.* xi. 33.

AND so may we, if we have faith; the power is in the Promiser; believing prayer, prevailing with Him, brings help in all times of danger. Is the Devil, like a roaring lion, opening his mouth ready to devour you? The Lord has promised that He will bruise him under your feet; that if you resist him he shall fly from you. Resist him then in faith. Is some huge difficulty, like a lion in the way, preventing your progress? Believe the promises, and plead them perseveringly, and the mountains shall sink before you into plains; stones shall be rolled away by more than angelic power; for the Lord Himself fighteth for you, and He will give the victory.

November 13.

"He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you."—*Rom.* viii. 11.

ACCORDING to this, Christians actually carry about with them the very power that is to raise them from the dead at the last day. Well may we pray with the Psalmist, "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law." What brighter or better evidence could our unbelief demand than this? Did not this power raise our souls from the grave of sin? Is it more difficult to raise a body than a mind? Is not the presence of the Holy Ghost working wonders of salvation a sufficient evidence of glory?

Thou art the earnest of his love,
The pledge of joys to come;
And Thy soft wings, celestial Dove,
Will safe convey me home.

November 14.

"A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench."—*Isaiah* xlii. 3.

JESUS combines in a wondrous manner the most amazing power with the most exquisite tenderness. With the same hand He upholds angels, archangels, and worlds without number, and preserves the feeblest insect that flits the air. With the same arm He dashed down Satan and his legions from

heaven, and carries the lambs of His flock with the tenderest care. How many answer this description! A little grace and a great deal of corruption; a little knowledge and much ignorance; a little faith and much unbelief, and often thereby greatly discouraged. Jesus is just the Saviour for you. He will not put out that spark, nor allow Satan to do it; but make it triumph over all the corruption, and burn brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

November 15.

"And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves; for to-morrow the Lord will do wonders among you."—*Josh.* iii. 5.

CONSECRATION to Christ throughout the entire camp of Christendom would inaugurate a new era of wonders in grace and glory. Consecration to Christ would draw in its glorious train all manner of means, plenty of money, and a multitude of men. "Because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead; and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them and rose again." Oh, we want more of the spirit of the British soldier—devotion to the death!

His not to make reply;
His not to reason why;
His but to do and die!

November 16.

"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."—*Matt.* xviii. 19.

ALL the teachings and doings of our Lord were in the interest of union, concord, love, and harmony. He would have us knit together as the heart of one man, bound together by a sevenfold cord not to be broken, and appearing before His Father as a band of brothers, pleading for the same blessings, seeking the same grace. Is there not some dear Christian friend with whom you can thus meet and mingle in sympathy? Is there not some precious soul in your circle unsaved, and for whom you could unitedly pray? See to this; it is worth a trial Who can tell how many might be brought into the fold by this simple, this loving plan?

November 17.

"I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."—*Isaiah* lv. 3.

ARE you willing now to accept this offer? Do you believe that God is sincere in making this promise to you? Mark what it means: "I will bind myself to fulfil to you all the promises made from the beginning; you shall have my Son as your

Surety, your righteousness, and peace; you shall have a free and full forgiveness; you shall have my Spirit dwelling within you, to make you love, and trust, and obey me; if you wander, I will restore; if you sin, I will chasten; if you return, I will pardon;—I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."

Dust and ashes though we be,
Full of sin and misery,
Thine we are, thou Son of God;
Take the purchase of Thy blood.

November 18.

"He that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man, shall receive a righteous man's reward."—*Matt.* x. 41.

How precious the righteous are in the sight of Jesus, the great day shall declare; "for the righteous Lord loveth righteousness; His countenance doth behold the upright." He undertakes to reward all who befriend them because they are righteous, to treat them as righteous with His own special favour and regard. As all who labour for Jesus here shall enter into the joy of their Lord hereafter; all who suffer with Him shall rejoice with Him: so all those who sympathise with the righteous in their wants, shall share in their reward. He that giveth to them giveth to the Lord, and He will return them a hundredfold.

November 19.

"He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet, shall receive a prophet's reward."—*Matt.* x. 41.

THIS may mean, that they shall have those blessings which men of God have to bestow, and which Jesus will enable them to impart most abundantly. The Divine order is, that they should give the spiritual, and receive in return the temporal. "He is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live." "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift." Good ministers of Jesus are "the messengers of the Churches and the glory of Christ;" they are stars in the right hand of Christ, friends of the Bridegroom, vessels full of heavenly treasure. "Let them be esteemed very highly in love for their work's sake, for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief."

November 20.

"Ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy."—*John* xvi. 20.

ALL this came true, as all the words of the faithful and true Witness have. He is a Rock on which you may safely lean. They were indeed sorrowful; they wept over a lost, a ruined world; they

mourned over the hardness of the human heart: but their sorrow was turned into joy, and the walls of the wretched dungeon resounded with their praises. And this shall be true of you, weeping penitent; of you, returning backslider; of you, tried and tempted believer: those tears of sorrow shall turn into rivers of delight, out of the deepest depths of tribulation shall arise the greatest mercies; for Jesus came to give unto you "the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

November 21.

"And ye now therefore have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice."—*John* xvi. 22.

AND so it happened. They wept, as well they might, at losing such a Lord. They fled with horror from the sight of their Saviour on the cross, all mangled and bleeding, rejected by men, beset with demons, forsaken of God! But He arose from the grave. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord, and still more so as one after another left the cross of martyrdom for the crown of glory. And who can tell the rapture of that moment when we shall meet our Master in the skies;

All our sorrows left below,
And earth exchanged for Heaven.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus; come quickly."

November 22.

"And your joy no man taketh from you."—*John* xvi. 22.

JESUS is here speaking of the future. It is a promise He makes to all who believe in Him. The joy of a Christian is down too deep in his nature, is too independent of the whole creation, is too well guarded, to be taken away by man. Ask, What is the spring of the believer's joy? It is Christ within us, Christ formed within, Christ intertwined about our hearts, the hope of glory. And will He allow any man to displace Him? to snap the tie which binds Him to us? Therefore, in the worst times the Christian can sing: "Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be on the vines; yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

November 23.

"I will contend with him that contendeth with thee."—*Isaiah* xlix. 25.

THE Saviour of the sinner must be the destroyer of his sin, and the enemy of Satan, the cause of it. It is an unspeakable comfort to know that our Lord regards our foes as His own, as His personal adversaries, and He deals with them accordingly. What see you in the conduct and career of your

Saviour but an all-conquering Captain, contending with those who so cruelly oppress you—sin and Satan? That He might get close to them He became as one of us. To defeat and destroy, He lived a holy life, died a shameful death, rose again, and lives for ever. To contend with our sins He enters our heart, fights with the sword of the Spirit, by the discipline of life, and will not rest until they are utterly and for ever destroyed.

November 24.

"Praise ye the Lord. For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people: He will beautify the meek with salvation."—*Psalm* cxlix. 1, 4.

MEEKNESS may be mine; for I have more materials within me, in sin and sense of want and misery, than the angels, who bow in meekness before the throne of the Eternal. It needs but the light of truth to shine fully on us in view of the Cross, to make us among the meekest of mankind—would that we valued it more! Is there any character to whom more is promised than the meek? How beautiful will these loving, gentle, Christ-like spirits be one day! Arrayed in the robe of the Saviour's righteousness, with the mind of Jesus within, and the body made like unto His own glorious body—this promise will be fulfilled to their everlasting comfort and God's eternal glory.

November 25.

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust."—*Psalm* xci. 4.

JESUS applied this homely illustration to Himself: "How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wing." How completely, how comfortably, how securely are they sheltered by the beautiful wing of the fond parent! So is the believer at all times, in all places, whether he realises it or not. It is Christ above, and Christ below; Christ on the right hand, and Christ on the left; and Christ within, the hope of glory:—

Just as a hen protects her brood,
From birds of prey that seek their blood,
Under her feathers, so the Lord
Makes His own arm His people's guard.

November 26.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ."—*Phil.* iv. 7.

THAT is, if we are careful for nothing, but in everything prayerful and thankful. To be perfect, it must be the work of Jesus. He who by convincing of sin brings wrath on the conscience, He alone can take it off; He who shed His blood on Calvary, can by His Spirit make that blood speak louder in

the soul than the outcry of sin, and so bring peace in all things. We might as well try to still the tempest as calm the storms of spiritual conflict; but when He giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when He hideth His face, who then can behold Him? Peace is the work of God.

November 27.

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."—*Isaiah* lix. 19.

THIS has been fulfilled times without number; God has never left Himself without witness for the truth amidst the deadliest and darkest errors. We need not fear. The old Serpent may "Cast out of his mouth water as a flood," as it is written of him; but the Spirit of Jesus can pour out floods of light-giving and life-giving influences, which shall overpower all that the enemy can do. And so when he comes into our souls with a flood of wicked thoughts, questionings, doubts, fears, and even blasphemies, if we pray earnestly, the Holy Spirit will come, and, with a gentler but mightier force, sweep them away.

Almighty Spirit, visit thus
Our hearts, and guide our ways;
Pour down Thy quickening grace on us,
And tune our lips to praise.

November 28.

"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show forth unto the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath."—*Heb.* vi. 17.

THE destruction of our deadly enemy, unbelief, and the life of our great friend, faith, is the aim of the Holy Ghost in this epistle, and should be our aim every day of our life. What condescending grace, for the God of truth to bind Himself by an oath! Men stake their reputation on an oath; to be guilty of perjury is regarded as a very great crime. It is, therefore, as though the Ever Blessed One pledged His holy character on the fulfilment of His promise—aye, and has sealed it with His blood. As an oath is an end of all strife amongst men, so God's oath should be an end of all doubt, debate, and unbelief in the mind of all who have fled for refuge to Jesus.

November 29.

"And I will raise him up at the last day."—*John* vi. 44.

THE Father draws us to Jesus; all committed to Him He will keep, and will bring forth at the last great day. What immortal wonders will then be

seen! All who have been given to Jesus—their deathless spirits, their stores of truth, their spiritual wealth, their characters, their good works, their labours of love, all committed to Him will He raise up at the last day. Have you yielded yourself to this Princely One? Confidently then expect that all is safe, and go on to glory.

His honour is engaged to save
The meanest of His sheep;
All that His heavenly Father gave,
His hands securely keep.

November 30.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."—*James* i. 12.

LOOK up, thou tempted one! see Jesus, who endured the cross for you, now in glory, holding the crown of life—the topmost blessing, the greatest good even God can bestow! What if you yield to this temptation? will you gain more than the crown promised? Is it better to give in, and so please the Devil, who is longing to have you, and displease Jesus, who died to save you, who lives to plead for you, is ready to help you, and will reward you, if you are faithful to Him? Better die than sin at any time.

December 1.

"For bodily exercise profiteth little; but godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."—1 *Tim.* iv. 8.

THAT is, bodily exercise in relation to religion, the bowing and the bending and the kneeling, the dressing and the undressing, the putting on and the putting off the holy garments, the eating the bread and drinking the wine, the whole movements of the outer man. All this without the heart profiteth nothing. There may be no religion in it; it may be even opposed to religion—it may be a substitute of the shadow for the substance, the sacrament for the Saviour; if so, there is no promise, but many a threatening. "When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?" (Isaiah i. 12; Isaiah lviii.; Rom. ii. 28-29; Col. ii. 23.)

December 2.

"Having the promise of the life that now is."—1 *Tim.* iv. 8.

As one example amongst many, we may say that godliness is profitable for health. Consider what motives the godly man has to regard this! He knows that he is the workmanship of God, fearfully and wonderfully made—the temple of the

Holy Ghost—and shall he do anything to defile or damage so sacred a building? He knows that his body is a member of Christ, for it is written, "He that is joined to the Lord is one;" and dare he do anything wrong with the property of another, bought with the blood of Jesus? And will not God take most special care of that which is part of Christ's mystical body, the purchase of His agony, and the shrine of the Holy One? (1 Cor. vi. 15-20.)

December 3.

"Having the promise of the life that now is."—1 *Tim.* iv. 8.

GODLINESS is profitable for domestic happiness; for it is written, "Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands; happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord." With all thy gettings get godliness; let each member strive earnestly after this, and home shall be as a garden in the wilderness, a sanctuary for the Saviour, a school to train you for the more glorious home of our Father in heaven.

December 4.

"Godliness is profitable for the life which is to come."—1 *Tim.* iv. 8.

Is there any promise for the life to come apart from godliness? There are threatenings many and terrible, but is there one single promise? Is there one in nature? can you read one in the stars shining in brightness, in the moon in her beauty, or in the sun in his brilliancy?—is there any one promise in all these glorious works? Is there one in reason, or in thy conscience? No, not one. There is nothing for the ungodly, but a fearful looking for of judgment and of fiery indignation. But to the godly in Christ, those who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory, and honour, and immortality, there is eternal life. Can you continue ungodly another day? Will you not seek at once to be on the Lord's side?

December 5.

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."—*Isaiah* i. 18.

THE wool is the sinner, the dye is sin—every sin from conception till conversion; every sinful thought, fancy, word, action; for all sin stains the soul, as dye the wool that is steeped in it. If so, what sin-stained souls have we! what a miracle of

power and of mercy to cleanse us! The promise is, that God will restore the wool to its original whiteness; will so completely separate sin from the sinner that he shall be as sinless as though he had never sinned.

Jesus, my God, Thy blood alone,
Hath power sufficient to atone;
Thy blood can make me white as snow:
No Jewish types could cleanse me so.

December 6.

"Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end." "He must increase, but I must decrease."—*Isaiah* ix. 7; *John* iii. 30.

As the moon modestly retires into the shade when her lord rises in his glory, so every true believer desires to be hidden, that the power and graces of Jesus may be seen. Oh, to be so enamoured with His beauty, to be so dead to one's own glory, as to desire to say nothing but what will unfold Him, to do nothing but what will glorify Him, to say at all times, Not my will but Thine; not my honour but Thine, for Thou alone art worthy! Surely, it should be the aim, the effort, the prayer, so to live that more of Jesus may be seen than of ourselves, that the Old-Adam nature may be completely eclipsed by the likeness of the Saviour. "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life

which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

December 7.

"I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord."—*Zeph.* iii. 12.

How true is the Bible! Where, in what city—when, at what period in history—has there not been the fulfilment of this prediction and promise? "The poor ye have always with you;" for so eternal Providence has decreed. The Lord's poor are the Lord's witnesses: He preserves them in defiance of all danger. They are most sacred to Jesus, who guards them most jealously, looking upon their afflictions as His afflictions, their oppressions as His oppressions; as He on Calvary regarded their sins as His own sins, and dying for them, put them away for ever. Oh, that all the poor would but believe the promises of this holy word on their behalf; and, believing them, find peace, and joy, and true riches, in all their poverty!

December 8.

"Bearing precious seed."—*Psalm* cxxvi. 6.

CHRISTIANS are seed bearers, and they should be seed scatterers. They have heavenly treasures in earthen vessels. They carry Christ in them—

Christ in the memory, Christ in the heart; and they have ten thousand ways of spreading His truth. Precious, indeed! more precious than rubies. One grain of Gospel truth may save many precious souls. How many souls has gold ruined? What a privilege to be permitted to scatter the seed of God, with the hope of bringing souls to Jesus, glory to God, and reward in eternity. Remember, it is precious truth of a precious Saviour, sown in precious souls, that shall live for ever. "The engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

December 9.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."—*Psalm* cxxvi. 5.

ARE you weeping? are you sowing in sadness? sighing before God over the hardness of the heart? You have the sympathy of Jesus. He wept over sinners. Parents, teachers, preachers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, all weep now. But look up, look forward; the harvest comes, and who can imagine the joy of beholding souls saved, souls glorified, souls eternally blessed! Then, looking back, how will our pains, anxieties, disappointments diminish into nothing, be as though they never had been, whilst the joy will be for ever. "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

December 10.

"Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing."—*Psalm* cxxvi. 6.

"DOUBTLESS:" there is nothing so certain as the cause of Christ; there are no results so sure as the effects of Christ's blessed Gospel. You might embark your energies in worldly undertakings and fail; but failure is impossible to the Christian labourer in scattering the seed of the kingdom. We will put God's "shall" against all the infidelity of the world—against all the misgiving of our own hearts, and believe that we shall come again rejoicing. O fainting sower, be of good courage! look forward a little; look beyond time to eternity; see yourself in this promise, and rejoice in the work of Christ! "Be instant in season and out of season."

December 11.

"Rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."—*Psalm* cxxvi. 6.

DOES not this involve the fact of recognition in heaven? Parents will embrace their children, saved through their instrumentality. Teachers will meet many who in the class were most hopeless. Pastors will welcome to glory multitudes

saved through their faithful labours. What a prospect! Are you discouraged, toiling in vain as you think? Believe this promise: Jesus has all in His hands, and He has declared, "He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

December 12.

"Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven."—*Matt.* x. 32.

We greatly need these promises; we are continually shrinking from this confession. It is most humbling, that whereas He, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace, is not ashamed to call us brethren, we act as though we were ashamed of Him as our Saviour and Friend. Will not this shame us? Will not this gracious promise inspire us with courage to be owned, acknowledged, and presented to the Father with exceeding glory? O thou loving and forgiving Saviour, do for thine own name's sake so fill us with Thy love, inspire us with Thy Spirit, that we may boldly confess Thee before men here, and receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away.

December 13.

"And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day."
—*Zech.* iii. 9.

It requires more than angel's mind to grasp this mighty promise; may the Holy Spirit help us to believe, to appropriate, and to enjoy. It was fulfilled in type when, the sin being confessed over the head of the goat, it was carried away to the land not inhabited (Lev. xvi. 20-22.) It was done on Calvary, when by the one offering of Himself, Jesus finished transgression, made an end of sin, and perfected for ever all who are sanctified. (Dan. ix. 24; Heb. i. 3; ix. 26; ix. 10, 12, 14.) It is done, when we believe to the saving of the soul; the entire guilt of the past life put away for ever, the power of sin subdued by the indwelling Spirit, and provision made for its actual and utter destruction.

Turn to Christ your longing eyes,
View His bleeding sacrifice;
See through Him your sins forgiven,
Pardon, holiness, and Heaven.

December 14.

"For by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."—*Rom.* v. 19.

This promise has been fulfilling through all time: beginning in Eden, continuing ever since, com-

pleted in glory. "In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault, before the throne of God." The obedience of Jesus, His obedience unto death, is, in the eye of impartial, infinite Justice, a set-off against their disobedience. The obedience of the Creator, surely, shall outweigh the disobedience of the creature! Oh, comfort unspeakable! oh, grace unsearchable! oh, favour most unmerited! to me, a poor, guilty creature, to have the obedience of the God-Man, the Almighty, the infinitely lovely Jesus, reckoned to me as mine, and I treated as the righteousness of God in Him! "Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, Rejoice."

December 15.

"I will receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."—*John* xiv. 3.

WHAT a meeting will that be—the sinner saved and the Saviour! the most ardent and impassioned lovers in the universe; the one having a desire to depart and be with Christ, and Christ longing and waiting for him to come. There will be no perfection, no rest, till the Head and members are together in glory. This seems to be the ultimate end of Jesus in relation to His people—"that

where I am, there they may be also." O Lord, give us grace to realise Thy love in this; to believe that, poor and unworthy and sinful as we are, yet Thou wilt not be content till we are with Thee in blessedness for ever.

In pastures green He'll lead His flock,
Where living streams appear;
And God the Lord from every eye
Shall wipe off every tear.

December 16.

"That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."—*Heb.* vi. 12.

"GONE to inherit the promises," might be inscribed on the tomb of every believer in Jesus. Here they were heirs; there they are inheritors. Then they "saw them afar off, were persuaded of them, embraced them;" now they possess them in all their fulness and glory. Oh, could we pierce through those clouds which conceal the inheritance of the saints in light, hear their song of triumphant joy, see the white-robed, sun-clad immortals entertained at the marriage supper of the Lamb—surely we should not be slothful, but followers of them who follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth! "My soul cleaveth unto the dust; quicken thou me, according to thy word."

December 17.

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out."—*Rev.* iii. 12.

A PILLAR for ornament, not for support. Christ Himself sustains the temple of God. A monument of mercy, a trophy of victory, proclaiming the conquests the soldier has by grace achieved over sin and self and Satan. It will one day be seen that such victories are greater in the eye of Heaven than the far-famed triumphs of the sword, the spear, and the battle-axe; and the deeds of the Christian hero, his successful conflicts with his temper and his tongue and the temptations of time, shall be had in everlasting remembrance, when the names of many a celebrated conqueror shall be forgotten. "Fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life."

December 18.

"And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen."—*Gen.* xxii. 14.

BEYOND all question, the plan of Providence is the best—the plan of leading us into serious difficulties, exercising our faith, and then marvellously delivering us. No better could be devised to strengthen

man's faith, to unfold Christ's power, and illustrate His glory. The all-sufficiency of Jehovah to meet all our emergencies, supply all our wants, pardon all our sins, to save our souls through Christ, is the grandest and most blessed of all truths; and he is an honoured one, who like the Patriarch is permitted to witness it. Believe this promise, and your hill of difficulty shall become the mountain of deliverance, from the hilltop of salvation shall you see the mount where provision was made for all our wants and woes, where all God's glories were illustrated in the spotless Victim, who is all our salvation and all our desire.

December 19.

"Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it."—*Heb.* iv. 1.

HAVE you any doubt of your eternal safety? Have you the least cause for suspicion that, after all your reading, thinking, and perhaps professing and working in the cause of Christ, you "seem to come short?" Do be persuaded to sift the subject thoroughly; examine yourself minutely, and pray, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts: see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Had we a

claim to an estate, and a suspicion rose in our minds as to the validity of our title-deeds, could we rest a moment? Should we not search diligently? But what is any earthly inheritance compared to the heavenly!

December 20.

"That ye may eat and drink at my table and in my kingdom."—*Luke* xxii. 30.

WE must die to know what this means; but we can readily discern the love which prompted the beloved Saviour to make this promise. He must have His people with Him; they must live in the most intimate fellowship, behold His glory, and enter into His joy. This may meet the eye of some poor Christian, eating his crust alone in some little hut, unhonoured, despised. How should it raise the soul in gratitude to Him who so loves us as to make Him long for our company in glory! Can we believe this, that we are on our way to such glory, may enter into it this very day, and not abound with love and zeal?

December 21.

"I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me." -*Luke* xxii. 29.

THRONES and sceptres, dignities and honours, are thus at the disposal of Jesus, for the Father hath

delivered all things into His hand. Honour your Lord and Master—make it to be the aim and end of your life to magnify Him, to greaten Him in the esteem, in the confidence, and love of mankind, by every word you speak, and by every act you perform—and you shall realise this magnificent promise. You can afford well to lose sight of your own honour here on earth; it is safe in the hands of your Divine Master. Heirs to such a kingdom may be content with little of this world's good.

December 22.

"And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth."—*Rev.* xxi. 27.

We are called upon to give thanks at the remembrance of the Divine holiness as well as the Divine mercy. To it we are indebted for all our favours—temporal, spiritual, and eternal. Had it not been for God's eternal and implacable hostility to sin, displayed on Calvary, it would have overspread the universe—there would have been no place such as is described in this promise. What an unspeakable mercy that there is a glorious home, from which all sin shall be for ever excluded! What a prospect to those who feel its torment, its bondage, its polluting power! May the Holy One graciously prepare us for the heaven of eternal purity and peace!

December 23.

"He will swallow up death in victory."—*Isaiah* xxv. 8.

ART thou afraid of this King of terrors, O timid believer in Jesus? How needless are thy fears! how plain is it that they arise from the weakness of thy faith! Look at this promise; and as sure as thou art a believer will it be fulfilled in thy case. Jesus has, by becoming a curse for us, redeemed us from the curse of death; by triumphing over the Devil destroyed the cause of death; by preparing us for Heaven, He has changed the character of death; and thus swallowed it up in victory. Believe this promise, and go on thy way rejoicing, singing, with the Apostle, "O death! where is thy sting? O grave! where is thy victory?"

December 24.

"A little while, and ye shall see me."—*John* xvi. 17.

CHRIST'S "little while" may appear a long while to many—to the sick, to whom wearisome nights are appointed; to the tried and tempted, the worn-out and weary, to those who are lingering on the brink, and waiting to be gone. But, compared with the eternal future, it is a little while. He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Yes, we may say to the suffering saint, Wait in faith and patience; and in a little while you shall actually see

Jesus—see Him in unveiled beauty, and glory, and splendour—see Him with a sinless soul, an unclouded intellect, a joyous and loving heart. Are we as prepared to meet Him as He is sure to call us?

December 25.

"Manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting."—*Luke* xviii. 30.

It is said that in earthly investments the security diminishes as the interest promised increases, therefore be content with the small; and breaking banks and broken hearts seem to justify the saying. But it is not so in Christ's Kingdom. Here is interest indeed: manifold more good than you part with in this world, and in the world to come life everlasting. Do you believe in Jesus in this promise? Depend upon it that truer words were never uttered in this world; and He who has the unsearchable riches, the infinite treasures of all kinds, temporal, spiritual, and eternal, will most certainly make His promise good. "Be not faithless, but believing."

December 26.

"Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods."—*Matt.* xxiv. 47.

This is the law of promotion. We frequently see it here—the faithful servant raised from the nar-

row to the broader sphere of usefulness; but it will be abundantly realised in eternity. Heaven is a place of service—they serve Him day and night in His temple; and who can tell but all our service here is training for His blissful kingdom in glory? Work hard for Jesus; be as willing to labour for Him as He was to die for you; think nothing too costly for Him who has given Himself for you; and you shall be advanced, if not in time, most certainly in eternity. Is Jesus the Master you serve? can you withhold anything from Him who gave Himself up for you?

December 27.

"It shall come to pass that at evening time it shall be light."—*Zech.* xiv. 7.

"WHILE there is life there is hope." We must not yield to despair concerning any living in this world of mercy. God does, sometimes, to show the exceeding riches of His grace, convert very aged persons; so that, with them, in the evening of life, it is light. It is true also when there is a brightening of the faculties, as is sometimes seen in old age, in the renovation of the mind, recovery from backsliding, in removing doubts and fears, in taking away the fear of death from those long oppressed with it, and in giving brilliant anticipations of the glory awaiting them.

December 28.

"They shall still bring forth fruit in old age."—*Psalm* xcii. 14.

It may be, dear aged friend, that you are this day mourning over your uselessness, your doing nothing for Jesus. Would it not be better to pray, to plead this promise? Might not your matured experience, your mellowed character, your advice, your example, and your prayers be made great blessings by Him, who was as a root out of a dry ground, and can make all His members like Himself. Grace is contrary to nature: "for which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

The plants of grace shall ever live;
Nature decays, but grace must thrive.
Time, that doth all things else impair,
Still makes them flourish strong and fair.

December 29.

"And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."—*Isaiah* xlvi. 4.

Here is unchangeableness: "I am He," the same as when you commenced your pilgrimage. All things have changed about you, but Jesus is the same. Here is faithfulness: the hoary head found in the way of righteousness is itself proof that the

promises have been fulfilled. Here is tenderness: now the grasshopper is a burden, now the eye is dim, the limbs trembling, all failing, He who carried you as a lamb in His bosom will carry you in your old age. Lean, aged pilgrim, on this promise, as a staff which will support you when every other will give way. "There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."

December 30.

"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord."—*Numb.* xiv. 21.

THERE is amazing force in this most solemn assurance of the Great Jehovah—a force before which all the enemies of God might well quail, and all His friends exult and triumph. It plainly means that, notwithstanding all the unbelief, the hatred, the scorn, the opposition of men and devils, and the feebleness, fearfulness, and faithlessness of His own chosen servants, His glory, as unfolded in Jesus, shall be fully revealed, and "All flesh shall see it together." Learn to look off from the creature to the Creator: believe the truth of God; reject the lie of Satan; live for the glory of Christ, and be comforted in the thought, "That when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with

exceeding joy." "What if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar."

December 31.

"And this is the promise that He hath promised us: even eternal life."—1 *John* ii. 25.

THIS is the crown, the climax, and the consummation of all—the everlasting enjoyment of God in Christ, "For this is life eternal: that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." We began with the fountain whence all the promises flow—the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord; we have led you to some of the refreshing streams from that eternal spring; and here we have the ocean of blessedness, into which they all run. He who enters by faith into the promised land; follows faithfully the lights given for his guidance, embraces the privilege of pleading prayer, shall reach in safety the Paradise of peace, and enjoy for ever the fellowship of God and the Lamb. "Happy is that people that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord." "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

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